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General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 September 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 141 of the provisional agenda*
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 5 September 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

1. At present, five Member States are in arrears under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states:

> A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member.

2. The minimum payments necessary to reduce the amounts owed by those Member States on their contributions so that they remain below the gross amount assessed for the preceding two full years (2016 and 2017) are as follows:

Member State	*Minimum payment (United States dollars)*
Comoros	880 713
Guinea-Bissau	80 734
Libya	6 499 480
Sao Tome and Principe	763 931
Somalia	1 388 729

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

* A/73/150.

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United Nations A/73/367/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 September 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 140
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 26 September 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Further to my letter dated 11 September 2018 (A/73/367/Rev.1), I have the honour to inform you that Guinea-Bissau has made the payment necessary to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-15988 (E) 280918

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General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 September 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 141 of the provisional agenda*
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 11 September 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

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(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

* A/73/150.

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United Nations A/73/368

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 September 2018

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Seventy-third session
Item 78 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Oceans and the law of the sea

Oceans and the law of the sea

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report, which covers the period from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, is submitted pursuant to paragraph 366 of General Assembly resolution 72/73, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of that resolution, for consideration at its seventy-third session. It is also being submitted to States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, pursuant to article 319 of the Convention. The present report provides information on major recent developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in particular at the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as within the bodies established by the Convention.

* A/73/150.

** The present report contains a summary of the most significant recent developments and selected parts of contributions by relevant agencies, programmes and bodies. Owing to word limits for reports mandated by the General Assembly, an advance, unedited version of the report, with comprehensive footnotes, is also available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at: http://www.un.org/depts/los/general_assembly/general_assembly_reports.htm.

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I. Introduction

1. The oceans play a crucial role in everyday life, as the lungs of the planet and the greatest producers of oxygen. They help to regulate the global climate and are the ultimate source of the water that sustains all life on Earth, from coral reefs to snow-covered mountains, from tropical rainforests to mighty rivers, and even deserts. The oceans act as a major sink of carbon dioxide, significantly reducing greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere and thereby benefiting all humankind.

2. As emphasized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular in Sustainable Development Goal 14, the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources is critical to sustainable development, including in regard to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and the creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work.

3. Yet, the state of the oceans has never been more perilous. Despite the efforts of the international community to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources, the health of the oceans continues to be adversely affected by major pressures simultaneously, such as pollution, including marine debris, especially plastics, physical degradation, increased overfishing (see paras. 58–61), alien invasive species and underwater noise and the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification. According to recently released data, the estimated amount of fixed nitrogen emitted into the atmosphere from fossil fuel burning and agriculture is now at almost four times the level of emissions in 1850. The global ocean heat content is at record levels, sea-ice extent in the Arctic and the Antarctic remains well below average and the year 2017 was in the top three hottest years on record, with record-breaking extreme temperatures. Coastal communities and small island developing States remain highly vulnerable to those cumulative impacts, in particular, sea level rise, coastal erosion and storms, which threaten their very existence, let alone their economic and social welfare.

4. The world now faces a global emergency over the oceans. The threats to the global environment must be taken seriously, given that the collective future and security of humanity is at stake.

5. Without concrete and urgent action, Member States will face major challenges in their efforts to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14, in particular those agreed to be met by 2020, namely, to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems (target 14.2), to end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices (target 14.4), to conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas (target 14.5) and to prohibit and eliminate certain forms of fisheries subsidies (target 14.6).

6. However, in a recent study conducted among the world's leaders, Goal 14 was ranked last in significance among all the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda. If the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda are to be achieved, the significance of the oceans to the collective future of humanity must be appreciated and understood by everyone.

7. Concerted action to meet the targets of Goal 14 will have wide-ranging positive effects on meeting the other Goals, just as the achievement of the other Goals and targets will have a positive effect on the achievement of Goal 14. As the Goals are integrated and indivisible in character, so too must be the efforts of the international community to implement the 2030 Agenda, acknowledging the interlinkages and synergies between the Goals.

8. Now more than ever the international community must give priority to addressing ocean issues in an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral way

within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 — the world's "constitution for the oceans" — as complemented by other instruments.

9. The present report summarizes activities and developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including those undertaken by the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in relation to General Assembly resolution 72/73. The purpose of the report is to assist the General Assembly in its annual consideration and review of activities and developments relating to oceans and the law of the sea. It should be read in conjunction with other reports relevant to oceans and the law of the sea issued by the United Nations during the period under review (see, for example, A/73/68, A/73/74, A/73/124 and SPLOS/324). It should also be read in combination with the more detailed contributions provided by the United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and bodies, as well as other intergovernmental organizations.[1]

II. Legal and policy framework

10. During the period under review, the existing legal framework for oceans, which includes a large number of binding instruments, adopted and implemented at the global, regional and national levels, within the context of the Convention, continued to be developed and expanded. The conditions for entry into force for a number of global instruments were met.[2] Binding instruments, complemented by important non-binding instruments, such as the 2030 Agenda, as well as the annual resolutions of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries (see, for example, resolutions 72/72 and 72/73), continued to provide a comprehensive international law regime applicable to the oceans, as well as internationally agreed policy guidance, commitments, goals and targets. Important steps were taken to strengthen the implementation of existing instruments on oceans at the global and regional levels, as described in sections III to VII below.

11. The implementation of the Convention is crucial for the peaceful and sustainable development of the oceans and their resources and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda, in particular Goal 14. As at 31 August 2018, there were 168 parties to the Convention and 150 parties to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention, adopted in 1994. The number of parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement of 1995 increased from 86 to 89 during the reporting period.

12. As a framework instrument, the Convention provides for the further development of specific areas of the law of the sea. Most notable in this regard is the decision of the General Assembly in resolution 72/249, following the completion of the work of the Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292 (see A/AC.287/2017/PC.4/2), to convene an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible. The Conference held a meeting in New York, from 16 to 18 April 2018, to discuss organizational matters, including the process for the preparation of the zero draft of the instrument (see

[1] Available from www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/contributions73.htm.

[2] These included the 2004 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments on 8 September 2017 and the 2007 Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) on 16 November 2017.

A/CONF.232/2018/2).[3] The first substantive session of the Conference will take place from 4 to 17 September 2018.

13. In other contexts, as reviewed below, the important role of the Convention in setting out a comprehensive legal regime for the oceans and seas has been reaffirmed, thereby promoting peace and security and sustainable development (see, for example, SPLOS/324).

III. Maritime spaces

14. The enhancement of legal certainty with respect to maritime zones and boundaries through the Convention is important in strengthening international peace and security and the effective use and management of the oceans. The bodies provided for in the Convention, namely the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, continued to play fundamental roles in that respect.

15. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf continued its important work (see CLCS/100, CLCS/101, CLCS/103, CLCS/103/Corr.1 and CLCS/105). Among other things, it established new subcommissions and reviewed and modified its internal working methods to address concerns expressed by some submitting States (see SPLOS/319).

16. I continued to perform my functions as depositary under the Convention concerning charts or lists of geographical coordinates of points concerning the limits of maritime zones, and pursued further my efforts to improve the corresponding geographic information system. I received one additional deposit pursuant to article 76, paragraph 9, of the Convention, permanently describing the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, following the recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, as well as a number of other deposits.

17. The Convention requires States parties to settle any dispute between them concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention by peaceful means. During the period under review, a number of developments took place in relation to disputes submitted to the dispute settlement mechanisms provided for in the Convention.

18. In particular, a Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea delivered a judgment in the *Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in the Atlantic Ocean (Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire)* (case No. 23) (see SPLOS/317 and SPLOS/324).

19. In May 2018, the Conciliation Commission in the conciliation between Timor-Leste and Australia recorded the agreement between the two countries regarding their maritime boundary in the Timor Sea. On 6 March 2018, the maritime boundaries treaty between Timor-Leste and Australia was signed in New York in the presence of myself and the Conciliation Commission.

20. In addition, on 29 March 2018 Guyana filed an application against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela with the International Court of Justice, requesting the Court to confirm the legal validity and binding effect of an arbitral award concerning the boundary between Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

[3] See also https://www.un.org/bbnj/.

IV. Maritime security

21. The ability of States to maximize benefits from the oceans and seas and develop a sustainable ocean-based economy depends on maintaining and enhancing the security of maritime spaces.

22. International cooperation, both at the global and regional levels, remained key in efforts to address threats to maritime security, including piracy, as well as armed robbery against ships, during the period under review. Under article 100 of the Convention, all States are required to cooperate to the fullest possible extent in the repression of piracy.

23. The number of reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships at the global level increased slightly, after a long period of decline. The Gulf of Guinea region and South-East Asia continued to have high numbers of attacks, while the number of attacks off the coast of Somalia remained low, with two attacks reported in the first six months of 2018.

24. In terms of regional developments, in July 2018, the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia welcomed the continued efforts by the international community to combat and deter piracy off the coast of Somalia, acknowledged the ongoing threat in the region and considered a proposal to broaden the mandate of the Contact Group to crimes and threats directly related to piracy. It also highlighted the need to regulate privately contracted armed security personnel and floating armouries to prevent the proliferation of arms.

25. In the Gulf of Guinea region, the use of violence during attacks and tactics such as kidnapping for ransom and the capture of fishing vessels remained a serious concern. International cooperation to prevent such attacks continued through the Group of Seven Friends of the Gulf of Guinea Group, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and the intervention of naval forces.

26. In Asia, international cooperation, including through the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, contributed to a 15 per cent decrease in incidents during the first six months of 2018, compared with the same period in 2017, with no reported successful cases of crew abduction or theft of oil cargo. Of 40 incidents, 3 constituted piracy, rather than armed robbery against ships.

27. Illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by sea continued to be prevalent. Such activities are being thwarted, including through the Container Control Programme, implemented jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization, which pools the strengths of customs and other law enforcement bodies. The Programme has focused on enhancing cooperation in detecting high-risk consignments at the regional level.

28. With regard to maritime security, UNODC reported on a wide range of capacity-building activities, including the development of maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks under its Global Maritime Crime Programme, provision of technical and material support to maritime law enforcement, courts and prosecutors and detention facilities in West Africa, East Africa, the Horn of Africa and South Asia. UNODC also piloted the use of satellite-based technology to monitor, prevent and respond to maritime crime threats. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) also undertook capacity-building activities, including to strengthen port security, and updated its model courses related to maritime security.

V. Importance of the human dimension

29. People all over the world depend on the oceans for food security, livelihoods, recreation, tourism, transportation, cultural values and heritage and for the regulation of the climate. Coastal communities, in particular in the least developed countries and in small island developing States, are highly reliant on the oceans in order to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable ocean-based economies and support community development. The conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources is essential to ensure the continued availability of these benefits for future generations.

30. As reflected in the 2030 Agenda, addressing vulnerabilities and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (Goal 5) will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals. However, while the importance of gender equality and the crucial role of women and youth in the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources are increasingly being recognized by the international community (see, for example, General Assembly resolution 71/312, annex, para. 9), concerted action towards gender equality and the empowerment of women is still needed in all ocean-related sectors.

31. During the reporting period, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) promoted the empowerment of women through better access to markets and reduced food losses, in the context of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. It also published a handbook and a video on gender-equitable small-scale fisheries development and governance.

32. A focus on gender in the context of World Oceans Day 2019 and on the theme "Empowering women in the maritime community" for the IMO World Maritime Day 2019 will provide further awareness-raising opportunities.

Labour at sea

33. Seafarers and fishers at sea often work in difficult conditions and face a wide range of occupational hazards, while tending to lack access to financial resources, social protection, institutional support and education. These workers are often vulnerable to exploitation and may suffer human rights violations and labour abuses. Women, migrant labourers and youth are particularly vulnerable. Instances of seafarer abandonment have continued to increase. The Convention requires every State to take such measures for ships flying its flag as are necessary to ensure safety at sea with regard, inter alia, to the manning of ships, labour conditions and the training of crews, taking into account the applicable international instruments.

34. The Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) entered into force in November 2017, setting out binding requirements to address key issues concerning work on board fishing vessels, including the prevention of labour abuses through the enforcement of minimum requirements, regularized recruitment processes and the investigation of complaints by fishers. For the first time under Convention No. 188, a fishing vessel was detained in June 2018 following a complaint by the crew to inspectors about the working conditions.

35. In January 2018, amendments to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic of 1965 entered into force to strengthen the rights of seafarers to shore leave. In June 2018, the International Labour Conference approved amendments

to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention of 2006 to protect the labour rights of seafarers captured as a result of piracy or armed robbery at sea.

36. In other developments, a tripartite meeting on migrant fishers was convened by ILO in September 2017 to follow up on a resolution on the promotion of welfare for fishers, adopted by the International Labour Conference in 2007. ILO also initiated work on decent working conditions in global supply chains, including seafood commodities. FAO supported stakeholders to establish sustainable fisheries policies, including decent working conditions, based on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Migration by sea

37. Tens of thousands of people continue to migrate by sea, often in perilous conditions, resulting in large numbers of deaths that are often unreported. There is an urgent need to improve search and rescue operations, including the provision of a place of safety, as well as to increase international cooperation.

38. The total number of persons migrating across the Mediterranean route in 2017, at more than 171,330 persons, was approximately 50 per cent lower than the number in 2016. However, across the western Mediterranean, the number of persons arriving in Europe in 2017, at approximately 28,350 persons, was more than double that of 2016. The International Organization for Migration reported that in the first seven months of 2018, 58,158 persons had entered Europe by sea and that 1,514 had died during their journey. Approximately 3,140 people died or went missing en route by sea to Europe in 2017.

39. The Gulf of Aden continued to be the second most prevalently used maritime route. A functioning maritime rescue coordination centre to coordinate search and rescue at sea is still lacking and the capacity of coastal States to engage in rescue is very limited. The ongoing conflict in Yemen contributed to the diminished capacity of States to protect lives along this maritime route.

40. In South-East Asia, many of the nearly 700,000 Rohingya who fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar since August 2017 did so by boat, with capsizes resulting in 200 deaths. The Caribbean route was also used by a growing number of persons: 100 maritime incidents involving over 2,800 persons were recorded in 2017.

41. The Convention and IMO instruments set out the obligations of States regarding the rescue of persons in distress at sea, and search and rescue services. Various efforts were made to promote the safety of life at sea during the reporting period. For example, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) carried out capacity-building activities, including training sessions on human rights and international protection in rescue operations at sea. In October 2017, IMO hosted a high-level inter-agency meeting involving international organizations and the main stakeholders of the maritime industry concerning unsafe mixed migration by sea.

42. On 13 July 2018, 192 Member States finalized the text of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, now expected to be the first intergovernmental agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It includes the commitment to cooperate internationally to save lives and prevent migrant deaths and injuries through individual or joint search and rescue operations, standardized collection and exchange of relevant information, assuming collective responsibility to preserve the lives of all migrants, in accordance with international law. The Global Compact will be formally adopted at an intergovernmental conference in Marrakech, Morocco, to be held in December 2018.

VI. Balancing economic growth with environmental protection

43. The oceans, seas and their resources are of critical relevance to each of the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Realizing fully the economic benefits derived from the oceans and their resources depends upon conducting ocean-based activities sustainably and with due regard for other activities, particularly in the light of increased competition for marine space and the need to protect and preserve the marine environment. There is a need to strengthen cooperation and coordination and to adopt an integrated approach to management in order to balance the social, economic and environmental dimensions.

44. At the core of the Convention is the integration of these three dimensions, along with the need to balance the enjoyment of rights and benefits with the concomitant undertaking of duties and obligations, thus making ever more urgent its effective implementation.

45. Following on from the consideration of the human dimension in the previous section, developments concerning the pillars of economic growth and environmental protection are reviewed below, including in relation to fisheries and shipping, the two main traditional ocean-based economic activities that are also being carried out in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

46. As reviewed below, marine science and technology have an important enabling role, not only with respect to the traditional ocean-based economic activities, but also with respect to the development of new activities. For example, in Europe, where offshore wind energy is seen as competitive with onshore energy, technology continued to move forward with larger turbines and larger wind projects. Progress is also being made towards floating wind farms.

47. In terms of other emerging ocean activities, in 2017 the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection identified deep-sea mining and its impacts on the marine environment as a new issue for the attention of its sponsoring organizations.

48. In this regard, during the reporting period, the International Seabed Authority made progress on its work in the development of a mining code as a priority matter. Following global stakeholder consultations on the draft regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, the Council of the Authority undertook its first substantive consideration of the draft text in July 2018 and issued a revised text. The Council also discussed the development of an economic model for mineral exploitation in the Area and financial terms for future exploitation contracts. With respect to the environmental impact of seabed activities, the Authority continued to develop regional environmental management plans for the Area, envisaged as the primary means for delivery of the Authority's environmental objectives at the regional level.

49. Subsequent to the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority prepared a draft strategic plan, taking into account the views of stakeholders (see ISBA/24/A/4). The first ever strategic plan was adopted by the Assembly of the Authority at its twenty-fourth session, as amended, to guide the direction and aims of the Authority for a five-year period (see ISBA/24/A/10).

50. In other developments, issues related to genetic resources, including digital sequence information on genetic resources, a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism under the Nagoya Protocol, and genetic resources and intellectual property continued to be considered within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

A. Increasing knowledge and understanding and promoting marine science and technology

51. Marine science is a critical resource in efforts to eradicate poverty and contribute to food security and the sustainable development of the oceans and seas. Science and technology play a key role in improving knowledge about the oceans, as well as about the interface between the oceans and the atmosphere, ultimately supporting our understanding and better management of human interactions with marine ecosystems, including in helping to predict and respond to natural events. Part XIII of the Convention on marine scientific research and part XIV on the development and transfer of marine technology reflect the importance of the need for capacity-building in marine science, related knowledge and expertise, as well as marine infrastructure. The General Assembly has continued to recognize that promoting the voluntary transfer of technology is an essential aspect of building capacity in marine science (resolution 72/73, para. 34).

52. During the period under review, a number of activities and initiatives were undertaken to promote marine scientific research, increase the research capacity of States and support the science-policy interface, including by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization. Among these, the Global Climate Observing System and the Global Ocean Observing System supported preparations for the third decadal ocean observing conference, OceanObs'19, in September 2019.[4] IAEA continued to assist States in improving the assessment of the level of protection against exposure to ionizing radiation.

53. The Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission approved the measurement of six new biogeochemical parameters by Argo floats and agreed to the continued use of the guidelines for the implementation of resolution XX-6 of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Assembly regarding the deployment of profiling floats in the high seas within the Framework of the Argo Programme to notify coastal member States of all Argo profiling floats likely to enter their exclusive economic zone, including those measuring these new variables.

54. Following the proclamation by the General Assembly of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2021, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission developed a draft road map with a strategy, governance arrangements and an outline of key milestones and consultation plans. After a key stakeholder review, the road map was presented to the Executive Council of the Commission in July 2018, which approved the terms of reference for the Decade Executive Planning Group to be convened in the second half of 2018. Communication activities were initiated to inform member States, potential partners and other stakeholders of the preparatory phase and communicate the purpose and expected results of the Decade.

55. As stated in the road map, the framework activities should be seen as complementary and supportive of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects.

56. A number of key milestones were met during the reporting period with regard to the second cycle (2016–2020) of the Regular Process: an outline for the second world ocean assessment is in place, as well as a mechanism for the establishment of the pool of experts for the second cycle, guidance for contributors, terms of reference

[4] See http://www.oceanobs19.net/.

for national focal points, a preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment and guidelines for the two rounds of regional workshops of the second cycle (see A/72/89, A/72/494 and A/73/74). The first round of regional workshops, which was held in 2017, aimed to inform the scoping of the second world ocean assessment, raise awareness and provide information and receive feedback on the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment (World Ocean Assessment I), while the second round is being held in the second half of 2018 so as to inform the collection of regional-level information and data for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment.

B. Conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources

57. Ensuring the effectiveness of the science-policy interface in fisheries management is key to implementing the provisions of the Convention and the Agreement. The thirteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement was focused on the topic "Science-policy interface" and key points were raised relating to the strengthening of that interface in fisheries management.

58. Given the importance of the world's fisheries as key contributors to food security and nutrition, livelihoods and economic development, the sustainability of the world's fish stocks remains a significant concern. The Convention and the Agreement provide a comprehensive regime for the conservation and sustainable management of living marine resources and are complemented by other legal and policy instruments, including the 2030 Agenda. In target 14.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community committed to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, by 2020, in order to restore fish stocks.

59. FAO estimated that the percentage of stocks fished at biologically unsustainable levels (overfished, depleted and recovering stocks) has grown from 31.4 per cent in 2013 to 33.1 per cent in 2015, thereby continuing the long-standing trend of deterioration in the status of stocks. Urgent action is needed to improve the management of global fish stocks, eliminate overcapacity, combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and address environmental stressors that affect the long-term sustainability of fish stocks, such as climate change (see A/72/70), overfishing, ocean acidification, marine pollution and anthropogenic underwater noise (see A/73/124).

60. In July 2018, the Committee on Fisheries of FAO expressed the need for greater cooperation and information-sharing in fish stocks management between member States, including through mechanisms established by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to support the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The Committee expressed support for the continuing work of FAO to develop technical guidelines for the estimation of the magnitude and geographical extent of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It also endorsed the voluntary guidelines on the marking of fishing gear and took note of a technical paper provided by FAO containing an overview of the implications of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture with a view to mapping out solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

61. Discussions continued at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to address fisheries subsidies that can contribute, directly or indirectly, to overcapacity and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in line with target 14.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Ministerial Conference of WTO, held in December 2017, called on members to engage constructively in ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies, with a view to adopting by 2019 an agreement on comprehensive and

effective disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, recognizing the need for appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country members and least developed country members in the negotiations.

62. In other developments, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization will complete its second performance review in September 2018 and continue to address conservation and management of fisheries resources; compliance and enforcement; governance; science; international cooperation; and financial and administrative issues. A number of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements took steps to address the impacts of bottom fishing, including expanding an area closure to sustain biological connectivity and the function of seamount communities. In September 2018, the Advisory Committee of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas will focus on by-catch, resource depletion, marine debris, surveys and research and use of by-catches and strandings and will discuss a draft conservation plan for the common dolphin.

63. Efforts continued to increase cooperation among organizations involved in fisheries management and between them and those with related mandates. For example, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora worked with partners, in particular FAO and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to deliver needs-driven capacity-building activities to assist developing countries in implementing provisions of the Convention for marine species. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources compiled experiences in mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries to identify opportunities for reporting and assessing progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 (see also para. 83).

C. Shipping

64. With over 80 per cent of global trade by volume and more than 70 per cent of its value being carried on board ships and handled by seaports worldwide, shipping represents a crucial sector for economic growth and sustainable development. Flag States are responsible for ensuring that ships flying their flag comply with the relevant provisions of the Convention and other relevant conventions.

65. However, the shipping sector has been negatively affected by increasing numbers of incidents of fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships. In response to reports by its member States, IMO will consider measures to prevent such unlawful practices.

66. Regarding rapid innovations in shipping technology, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee explored how maritime autonomous surface ship operations can be addressed in IMO instruments, including in the form of a scoping exercise to identify IMO regulations that preclude, do not preclude or would not apply to such operations, and endorsed a framework for a regulatory scoping exercise. The IMO Legal Committee also agreed to include a new work programme item on maritime autonomous surface ships on its agenda, with a target completion year of 2022, which will complement the scoping exercise being carried out by the Maritime Safety Committee.

67. According to a new vision statement, IMO will focus, among other things, on the review, development and implementation of and compliance with IMO instruments in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

68. In another significant development, IMO adopted an initial strategy that envisages reducing total annual greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping by at least 50 per cent by 2050 compared with 2008 levels and phasing them out as soon as possible in this century. Work also continued within IMO on energy efficiency requirements for ships.

D. Marine environment and marine biodiversity, ecosystem functions, goods and services

69. As indicated in paragraph 3, the health of the oceans and marine biodiversity continue to be negatively affected by various major pressures simultaneously.

70. Consistent with the obligations of States under the Convention to take measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment, various measures are being taken at global and regional levels to address marine pollution, including to strengthen the implementation of existing instruments and cross-sectoral cooperation.

71. Globally, land-based sources of pollution continued to be the greatest contributor to marine pollution. The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities reviewed the implementation of that important non-binding instrument and considered options for its possible future direction (see UNEP/GPA/IGR.4/3).

72. Reducing the incidence and impacts of marine plastic litter and microplastics remains a particular focus of the international community. The ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics, established by the United Nations Environment Assembly, examined barriers to and options for combating marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, especially land-based sources. Measures to address marine litter were also discussed in meetings under the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter and its 1996 Protocol, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and within FAO and IMO. At the regional level, a number of regional conventions and action plans, as well as the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, continued to undertake activities to address marine litter, including through the implementation of marine litter action plans.

73. Cooperation continued, including at the regional level, in efforts to address pressures on the marine environment from shipping (see para. 68), including regarding the dumping and management of waste.

74. IAEA provided support to its member States to develop and improve relevant nuclear and isotope-based tools and techniques to monitor and protect the coastal and marine environment. It prepared safety guides on regulatory control of radioactive discharges to the environment and prospective radiological environmental impact assessment for activities and facilities.

75. In other developments, work to address specific threats to marine biodiversity continued, such as trade, alien invasive species, underwater noise (see also paras. 59 and 81), offshore renewable energy, seabed mining (see also para. 48), ship strikes and by-catch. Attention to coral reefs also continued. Cooperation regarding marine migratory species was strengthened. Efforts were also increased to mainstream marine biodiversity considerations in various sectors, in particular fisheries (see also paras. 63 and 83).

VII. Strengthening implementation through integrated and cross-sectoral approaches

76. The increase in linkages being drawn to the ocean dimension in major intergovernmental forums or processes that are not focused on ocean-related issues was a very positive development during the reporting period. Notably, in 2017, the Ocean Pathway was launched during the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and will provide a two-track strategy for 2020, supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement, including by increasing the role of oceans considerations in the Framework Convention process, and increasing action in priority areas that have an impact on or are affected by oceans and climate change.[5]

77. The meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held from 9 to 18 July, provided an opportunity to draw attention to the interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the implementation of the other Goals that were reviewed. Ocean issues were touched upon during the review of the implementation of Goals 6, 11, and 12, among others, in particular with regard to the impacts of waste and wastewater management on the marine environment and interlinkages between sustainable consumption and production and marine resource conservation, including actions to combat plastics pollution.[6]

78. The Small Island Developing States Action Platform, developed to support the follow-up to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, has a focus on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, with approximately one third of the 315 registered partnerships relating to Sustainable Development Goal 14. The high-level midterm review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in September 2019 will reflect on progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

A. Strengthening international cooperation and coordination

79. The increasing number of forums dealing with sustainable development mainly from a sectoral perspective has challenged the ability of the international community to consider issues in a comprehensive and coherent manner and to identify important interlinkages, leading to more frequent calls to strengthen international cooperation and coordination and adopt comprehensive and integrated approaches in the broader sustainable development context and also regarding the oceans.

80. With regard to the former, the need to continue efforts to address, in a comprehensive and coherent manner, the challenges posed by environmental degradation in the context of sustainable development was emphasized by the General Assembly in the development of a new global pact for the environment. In its resolution 72/277, it decided to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group to consider a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General that will identify and assess possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments with a view to strengthening their implementation. The working group will discuss possible options to address such possible gaps and, if necessary, the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument and make recommendations, which may include the convening of an intergovernmental conference, to the General Assembly during the first half of 2019.

[5] See https://cop23.com.fj/the-ocean-pathway/.

[6] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018.

81. International cooperation and coordination remains critical to achieving the objectives of the Convention and the integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas. It is well recognized that the problems of ocean space, including the challenges to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and their resources, are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach. The General Assembly annually reaffirms the unified character of the Convention and the vital importance of preserving its integrity. It has, since the entry into force of the Convention, annually considered and reviewed developments at the global level under one consolidated agenda item on oceans and the law of the sea, as the global institution having the competence to undertake such a review. It also established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea to assist in its functions. The nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, held in June 2018, provided a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on anthropogenic underwater noise, facilitating the exchange of views among multiple stakeholders and improving coordination and cooperation between States and competent agencies. The effectiveness and utility of the Process will be reviewed by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session. The General Assembly will also review the terms of reference of UN-Oceans, the inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system, which it had deferred in 2017 until its seventy-third session. These reviews provide an opportunity to consider whether international cooperation and coordination need to be further strengthened.

82. During the reporting period, UN-Oceans, for which the United Nations Legal Counsel acts as focal point, strengthened and promoted the coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to ocean and coastal issues, focusing on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14. Progress was made in developing a proposed methodology for indicator 14.c.1, which, if supported by Member States and following a pilot test phase, could be submitted for approval to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators for reclassification from tier III to tier II status. Tier II status signifies that an indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries. During the period under review, three indicators for the targets of Goal 14 were reclassified from tier III to tier II status. The other main activities of UN-Oceans related to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (see also paras. 54 and 55) and follow-up to the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (Ocean Conference). Membership in UN-Oceans also expanded during the reporting period to include the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

83. At the regional level, a range of issues related to fisheries, protection and preservation of the marine environment and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use continued to be addressed through increased cooperation (see also section VI). Cross-sectoral cooperation was particularly promoted at the second meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, held in April 2018.

84. There are a number of management tools available that can foster cross-sectoral and integrated approaches to the management of human activities in the oceans and

seas, such as integrated coastal zone management, marine spatial planning, including through the application of area-based management tools, and ecosystem approaches.

85. Among these tools, area-based management received increased attention, including through guidance on the identification and use of such tools. Currently, 16.77 per cent of marine areas under national jurisdiction are protected, indicating the achievement of the quantitative element of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in these areas. Work continued to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in support of the adoption of appropriate conservation and management measures. With respect to marine spatial planning, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity produced an information document that compiled national, subregional and regional experiences.

86. Ecosystem approaches continued to provide a useful framework for developing ocean management strategies. FAO assisted countries with implementing ecosystem approaches to fisheries and aquaculture and activities were carried out under a number of regional seas conventions and action plans to further the implementation of ecosystem approaches.

B. Building the capacity of States to implement the legal and policy framework for the oceans and seas, including through voluntary commitments

87. During the reporting period, the generation of voluntary commitments continued to be promoted through intergovernmental conferences, while priority attention was also given to their follow-up (see also para. 78).

Implementation of the voluntary commitments under Sustainable Development Goal 14: the Special Envoy for the Ocean

88. Peter Thomson of Fiji was appointed as the Special Envoy for the Ocean to ensure that the many positive outcomes of the Ocean Conference, in particular the voluntary commitments made in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14, were fully implemented and to lead advocacy and public outreach efforts. Nine Communities of Ocean Action were launched to implement the voluntary commitments, generate new voluntary commitments and facilitate collaboration and networking in support of Goal 14.[7]

Capacity-building activities

89. Many intergovernmental organizations also undertook capacity-building initiatives with the overall objective of assisting developing States in sustainably managing ocean-based activities and resources, including through the implementation of the Convention and related instruments. For example, FAO expanded its efforts to support States in building capacity to effectively implement the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the Convention and international fisheries treaties and guidelines. The International Seabed Authority continued to build the capacity of developing States in deep-sea research and technology through its contractor training programmes and the endowment fund for marine scientific research in the Area. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea also continued to provide capacity-building, training programmes and workshops on dispute settlement under the Convention.

[7] See https://oceanconference.un.org/coa.

90. Pursuant to its General Assembly mandates, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs provided information, advice and assistance to States and intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders on the uniform and consistent application of the provisions of the Convention and related instruments, including through fellowship programmes, other capacity-building activities, participation in various conferences, meetings, workshops and training events and the management of trust funds.[8]

Fellowships

91. In January 2018, Vanessa Arellano of Ecuador, was awarded the thirty-third Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, which provides participants with training in ocean affairs and the law of the sea in order to foster a wider appreciation and application of the Convention. The financial state of the Fellowship remained critical and contributions are needed to ensure that at least one fellowship can be awarded annually.

92. Since 2004, the United Nations-Nippon Foundation of Japan Special Strategic Fellowship Award in Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has been awarded to 142 nationals of 76 Member States, including 12 in 2018 to nationals of Cameroon, Costa Rica (two), the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.

93. A new capacity-building initiative related to ocean governance under the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Sustainable Ocean Programme was launched in 2018. Thereunder, the Division awarded four Critical Needs Fellowships, from April to June 2018, to applicants from Cambodia, Guyana, Papua New Guinea and Senegal. It delivered two training sessions related to the intergovernmental conference to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction to 45 representatives from 42 States in April and May 2018. In July 2018, 11 Thematic Fellowships focusing on implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the Convention and ocean governance frameworks were awarded to nationals of Fiji, Gambia, Lesotho, Myanmar, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Saint Lucia, Sweden, Timor-Leste, Togo and Tonga. The fellowship will consist of four months (from August to December 2018) of in-person training at United Nations Headquarters, including briefings and activities to provide first-hand knowledge and insight into the implementation of ocean affairs frameworks.

Technical assistance to States

94. Jointly with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Division began to implement a project funded through the United Nations Development Account to assist Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica in developing evidence-based and policy-coherent oceans economy and trade strategies to support beneficiary countries in realizing economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources. Relevant legal and institutional frameworks under the Convention will be addressed to support the development of comprehensive national ocean governance frameworks, which can also support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 14 directly.

95. Under a project funded by the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, the Division completed a gap analysis of the Somali legislative and policy framework for oceans and provided a second briefing for Somali parliamentarians to raise awareness of the legal framework under

[8] More information is available on the website of the Division at www.un.org/depts/los/.

the Convention. Thus, together with the initial briefing for Somali parliamentarians in 2014, followed by an in-depth training programme for government officials and representatives from the regions of Somalia in 2015, all activities foreseen by the project have been completed. The Division will continue to provide customized technical and/or other capacity-building assistance to further reinforce the capacity of Somalia to address legislative barriers to developing maritime sectors and sustainably developing the oceans and the country's resources.

VIII. Conclusions

96. A wide range of activities were undertaken by the international community during the reporting period, including in relation to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/73, and progress was made in addressing ocean-related issues in a number of areas, such as maritime security, marine science and technology, international shipping, strengthening international cooperation and coordination and capacity-building.

97. At the same time, the health of the oceans continued to be negatively affected by ever growing and cumulative pressures. The impacts of climate change on the oceans, in particular, from sea level rise and more frequent and severe storms, were felt the world over, threatening the vulnerability of coastal communities, small island developing States and the least developed countries.

98. These impacts threaten safety of life, food security and livelihoods and underscore the urgent need for more focus on the human dimension of the oceans. This is visibly illustrated in the context of the ongoing and large-scale migration at sea.

99. Clearly, more needs to be done to raise awareness of the importance of the oceans for humanity on the one hand and of the impacts of anthropogenic activities on the oceans on the other. In order for further progress to be made, States must continue to increase their understanding of and resolve to use the tools that are currently available to achieve sustainable development, beginning with effective implementation of the Convention, which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, as complemented by a wide range of other legal instruments.

100. Moreover, with an ever-increasing number of competing activities in the oceans and with bodies addressing ocean issues predominantly from a sectoral perspective at the global, regional and national levels, the need for a coordinated and integrated approach to all ocean-related issues is imperative.

101. The clear conclusion from the reporting period is that much greater efforts are needed by Member States to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14, including through enhanced international cooperation and coordination and increased capacity-building and transfer of technology to developing States and that, in order to be cohesive, effective and long lasting, such efforts must be undertaken within the context of the legal framework set out by the Convention and the mandate and policy guidance provided by the General Assembly.

United Nations A/73/369

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 September 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Items 7 and 140 of the provisional agenda*

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee

Pattern of conferences

Letter dated 4 September 2018 from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I am writing to you in relation to the provisions of paragraph 7 of section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243, according to which no subsidiary organ of the Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly. Subsidiary organs wishing to meet during a regular session of the Assembly must submit their requests through the Committee on Conferences.

I wish to inform you that the Committee on Conferences has received requests from the following entities to meet in New York during the main part of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly: the Committee on Relations with the Host Country; the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services; the Board of Auditors; the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency; and the Independent Audit Advisory Committee.

The Committee on Conferences, having carefully considered those requests and the reasons for them, does not object, on the strict understanding that any such meetings would be allocated conference services on an "if available" basis, from within existing resources, in such a way as to ensure that the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees is not impeded.

Accordingly, I should be grateful if the General Assembly would explicitly authorize the following entities to meet in accordance with their requests, subject to the conditions referred to in the foregoing paragraph: the Committee on Relations with the Host Country; the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services; the Board of Auditors; the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations,

* A/73/150.

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the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency; and the Independent Audit Advisory Committee.

(*Signed*) Nirmal Raj **Kafle**
Chair
Committee on Conferences

United Nations A/73/370

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 September 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 137 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Progress report on the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is the third annual progress report on the implementation of flexible workplace strategies at United Nations headquarters submitted pursuant to section XI of General Assembly resolution 72/262 A. The report provides an update on the status of the project since the second annual progress report (A/72/379) and responds to requests contained in the above-mentioned resolution.

The present report shows that implementation of the project has proceeded over the past year in accordance with the plan outlined in the previous report of the Secretary-General. As at August 2018, 13 floors of the Secretariat Building had been reconfigured to a flexible workplace; a total of approximately 1,550 staff members in the Secretariat were working in a flexible workplace; and an additional capacity that could accommodate 690 staff had been added in the Secretariat since the beginning of the project. In April 2018, the United Nations Federal Credit Union Building in Long Island City was vacated as planned and the project is on track to vacate the Innovation Building when the lease expires at the end of September 2018. With the termination of these leases, the project will have achieved a reduction in annual recurrent rental costs of $16.3 million for the Organization.

As requested by the General Assembly, the report presents a schedule and plan for the completion of the project. The Assembly is requested to take note of the project plan and to approve the continuation of the project, as well as the three temporary positions for the project team. The Assembly is further requested to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the amount of $12,700,600 in respect of the project costs in 2019 and appropriate the amount of $6,586,600.

* A/73/150.

18-14822 (E) 021018

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an update on progress in the implementation of flexible workplace strategies at United Nations Headquarters since consideration by the General Assembly during the main part of its seventy-second session of the second annual progress report of the Secretary-General on this topic (A/72/379). The present report is submitted pursuant to section XI of Assembly resolution 72/262 A and responds to requests contained in paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13 of that section.

II. Background

2. In 2013, in his report (A/68/387), the Secretary-General presented the results of a study into the feasibility of implementing flexible workplace strategies at United Nations Headquarters to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. On the basis of that report, the Assembly, in section IV, paragraph 5, of its resolution 68/247 B, requested the Secretary-General to submit a business case for the application of flexible workplace strategies at United Nations Headquarters.

3. The Secretary-General presented a report that incorporated a business case for the application of flexible workplace strategies at the United Nations (A/69/749) to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. Since then, the Secretary-General has submitted two further reports on implementation of such strategies (A/70/708 and A/72/379).

4. After having considered the second progress report of the Secretary-General, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/72/7/Add.29), the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/262 A, section XI:

(a) Reaffirmed that flexible workplace strategies in the United Nations should be aimed at improving the overall productivity and efficiency of the Organization, as well as the staff workplace environment;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance with its decisions and full cooperation with the implementation plan for the project, while meeting the needs of staff and ensuring their well-being and productivity;

(c) Recalled paragraph 5 of section XVI of its resolution 71/272 A, and reiterated its request that the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat assess in detail the impact of the flexible workplace on productivity and provide reliable qualitative and quantitative benefit indicators as well as other factors for the improvement of overall productivity and staff well-being, and report thereon in the context of the next progress report;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to continue with the implementation of flexible workplace strategies in New York in 2018, with a maximum number of 140 staff per floor, and to report thereon at the main part of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly;

(e) Recalled paragraph 4 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and reiterated its requests that the Secretary-General carefully analyse and apply the lessons learned from the outcome of the pilot programme and report thereon in the next progress report;

(f) Noted the decrease in the current revised project costs, and requested the Secretary-General to revisit his cost estimates for the implementation of the project and to review the methodology and underlying assumptions so as to arrive at a reliable

cost estimate for the project and to provide updated information in this regard in his next report;

(g) Recalled paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee, which addressed the impact of a flexible workplace on flexible working arrangements, particularly telecommuting, and requested the Secretary-General to include relevant data in his next report;

(h) Reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to seek complementarities between flexible workplace strategies and flexible working arrangements, and in that regard requested him, under the guidance of the interdisciplinary working group, to provide information on arrangements for staff to work in remote locations, including from home, with an emphasis on addressing the requirements of staff with special needs, including those with disabilities, the elderly, expecting parents and parents with newborn or young children;

(i) Recalled paragraph 14 of section XVI of its resolution 71/272 A and decided that flexible working arrangements would be an integral part of all flexible workplace strategies, and requested the Secretary-General to update his bulletin on flexible working arrangements and to report thereon in his next report;

(j) Emphasized the central coordination and oversight role of the Office of Central Support Services of the Department of Management of the Secretariat in the management of rental properties;

(k) Requested the Secretary-General to explore options for the self-financing of the project and to report thereon in the context of his next report to the General Assembly for its consideration.

III. Project status

5. As at August 2018, a flexible workplace had been implemented on 13 floors of the Secretariat Building and one other floor was in the process of reconfiguration. To date, the project has resulted in additional capacity of 690 staff in the Secretariat Building and has enabled the organization to terminate three leases in commercial buildings as planned and as shown in table 1 below.

6. In early 2018, primarily to enable the moves required for the Innovation Building to be vacated, the 7th floor of the Secretariat Building was added to the project. Nevertheless, as the implementation of a flexible workplace on floors 12 and 20 involved implementation on partial floors and thus the floors were less costly to reconfigure, it is possible to implement the project on 27 floors within the same overall project cost estimate as previously planned for 26 floors.

7. The sequence of moves, floor reconfigurations and major project milestones (both implemented and planned up to September 2018) are shown in table 1.

Table 1
Sequence of moves and major project milestones to date

Secretariat floor	*Groups moved out to swing space*	*Move date to swing space*	*Groups moved back after reconfiguration*	*Move date to reconfigured floor*
13	Office of Information and Communications Technology and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Jan. 2016	Office of Information and Communications Technology, plus Office of Information and Communications Technology staff from the United Nations Federal Credit Union Building in Long Island City	Jun. 2016
18	Office of Human Resources Management	Jan. 2016	Office of Human Resources Management plus Office of Human Resources Management staff from the DC1 Building	Jun. 2016
19	Office of Human Resources Management	Jan. 2016	Office of Human Resources Management	Jun. 2016
Vacating of Daily News Building (April 2017)				
12	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Apr. 2017	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, including some Department staff from the Albano building	Jul. 2017
20	Office of Central Support Services and the Peacekeeping Financing Division of the Department of Field Support	Jul. 2017	Office of Central Support Services, plus Executive Office of the Department of Management from S-21 and Facilities and Commercial Services Division from the FF building	Oct. 2017
21	Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	July 2017	Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, including some staff from the FF building, and Peacekeeping Financing Division from S-20	Oct. 2017
14	Logistics Support Division of the Department of Field Support	Nov. 2017	Logistics Support Division plus some Logistics Support Division staff from DC1	Feb. 2018
30	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and Peacebuilding Support Office	Nov. 2017	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and Office for Disarmament Affairs	Mar. 2018

Secretariat floor	*Groups moved out to swing space*	*Move date to swing space*	*Groups moved back after reconfiguration*	*Move date to reconfigured floor*
31	Office for Disarmament Affairs, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	Jan. 2018	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from S-13, and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Prevention of Genocide from DC1	Apr. 2018
Vacating of United Nations Federal Credit Union Building (April 2018)				
17	Department of Field Support and Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Feb. 2018	Field Personnel Division/ Department of Field Support from DC1	May 2018
7[a]	United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, Department of Safety and Security, Department of Public Information and Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Mar. 2018	United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, Department of Safety and Security, Department of Public Information and Department of Peacekeeping Operations, plus some Department of Peacekeeping Operations staff from S-17	Jul. 2018
11	News and Media Division of the Department of Public Information	Apr. 2018	Department of Public Information, plus some Department staff from the Innovation building	Jul. 2018
10	Office of the Under-Secretary-General, Strategic Communications Division and Executive Office of the Department of Public Information	May 2018	Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Public Information, plus some Department staff from the Innovation building	Aug. 2018
9	Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information and Office of Internal Oversight Services	Jun. 2018	Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information and Office of Internal Oversight Services, plus Department of Public Information staff from Innovation building	Sep. 2018 (planned)
Vacating of Innovation Building (September 2018)				

[a] The 7th floor was reconfigured in two phases.

IV. Lessons learned and occupant survey of May 2018

8. The flexible workplace project entails ongoing engagement with users as an integral element. Through this engagement, lessons are continually being gathered from all floors where a flexible workplace has been implemented and, when deemed necessary, adjustments are made and incorporated into the implementation of subsequent phases.

9. As noted in previous reports, a fundamental element of that engagement is the programming and planning approach used to assess departmental requirements and determine any customization needs (see A/70/708, paras. 19–25). Experience has shown that this comprehensive assessment process, which includes consultation with staff representatives of the departments or offices concerned, is essential for the successful deployment of flexible workplace strategies. Once staff have occupied flexible workplace floors, continued engagement remains key to ensuring that any issues are identified, addressed and taken into account in the future implementation of the project.

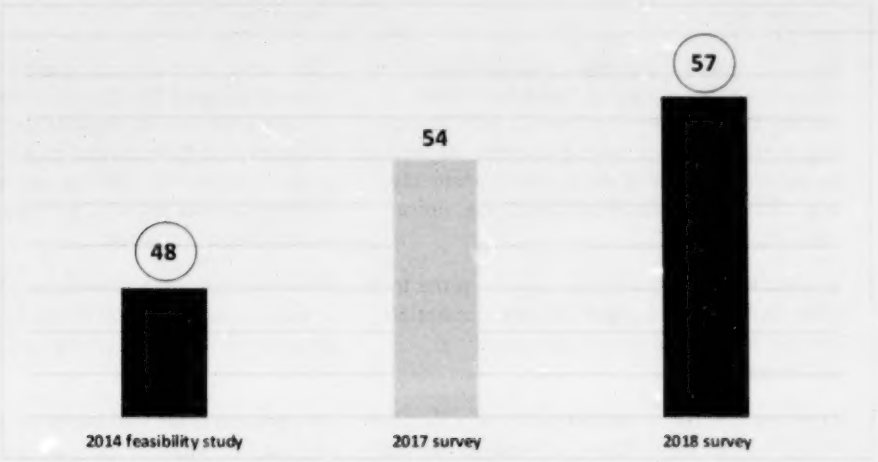
10. As part of this ongoing assessment, regular surveys have also been undertaken after staff have reoccupied renovated flexible workplace floors. In this context, in May 2018, a further study was conducted of the occupants of floors 12, 14, 20 and 21 of the Secretariat Building. These floors had been reoccupied in the period between July 2017 and February 2018. The study used the same combination of an online survey, on-site observation of the floors concerned and focus group discussions that had been utilized in 2017 (see A/72/379, paras. 15–21).

11. As detailed in the previous report of the Secretary-General, while productivity itself remains difficult to measure, it is considered reasonable to use workplace satisfaction as a proxy for productivity. Though not a direct measure, workplace satisfaction can have a direct relationship to productivity, as staff tend to develop positive attitudes and behaviours when their environment facilitates their ability to do well. In this regard, a connection is drawn between overall staff satisfaction with the workspaces; the degree to which staff report that the workspaces support their various kinds of work, i.e. workspace effectiveness; and overall productivity. In this context, the workplace performance index, which has been utilized in surveys over the past few years, can provide valuable insights, particularly if changes are assessed over time (see A/72/379, paras. 24 and 25).

12. The May 2018 survey had a high response rate, of around 50 per cent. In addition to the survey, two one-hour focus group sessions were conducted with a cross section of staff from different offices and departments, involving a total of 20 participants.

13. The main finding was that the overall score for staff satisfaction and workplace effectiveness as measured by the workplace performance index continued to rise, as shown in figure I. It is recalled that the survey carried out as part of the feasibility study in 2014 measured staff views on their workplaces prior to the implementation of a flexible workplace. As such, that study provides the baseline assessment against which to gauge the impact of flexible workplace strategies on staff perceptions of their workplace environment at United Nations Headquarters.

Figure I
Workplace performance index



14. Most of the focus group participants reported preferring the new flexible workplace to their former office environment. Staff stated that they greatly appreciated the natural light and access to more of their colleagues and spaces like the work lounge for a variety of activities. Comparing the survey results from respondents on different floors, the satisfaction rate and workplace performance were rising on the floors where staff operated in the flexible workplace environment as intended. At the same time, other groups that seemed to struggle with adherence to the required guidelines for flexible workplace showed a lower satisfaction rate.

15. With respect to individual productivity, staff members expressed, on average, a higher overall satisfaction in the May 2018 study than in the 2014 and 2017 studies. Staff members also indicated that their effectiveness at performing work requiring them to focus was similar to that reported in the 2014 baseline feasibility study.

16. Senior management perceived an increase in overall team productivity, whereas mid-level managers perceived a slight decrease. As was recorded in the May 2017 study, some mid-level managers appeared to still be adjusting to operating in the open work environment. The study concluded that more guidance on how to prepare their teams for working in an unassigned environment with a variety of space types was necessary. This is being developed.

17. The recommendations and follow-up actions from the May 2018 study are shown in table 2 below.

Table 2
Recommendations from the May 2018 study and follow-up actions

No.	*Recommendation*	*Project team follow-up*
1	Require more management engagement led by department leadership to build awareness among staff of the programme's principles, e.g. workspace as a shared resource, as well as to generate buy-in of the required protocols, e.g. clean desks, and behaviours, e.g. noise considerations.	The survey results were shared with management on the floors concerned, to reiterate the impact on staff satisfaction of adherence to the required protocols. The project team will continue to provide any further support required to departmental leadership as required.
2	Implement guidance for managers, in the form of in-person training and reference materials, on how to manage in an unassigned environment.	The project team is developing a training video aimed at mid-level managers on how to manage in a flexible workplace environment.
3	Promote long-term sustainability of a flexible workplace by establishing a standard flexible workplace onboarding process for new and transferred staff.	The project team will build on the existing onboarding video to develop a holistic onboarding guidance package that departments can implement on an ongoing basis.
4	Associate the flexible working arrangements more with the flexible workplace programme to maximize staff autonomy and satisfaction.	As noted under recommendation 2, further training materials to support managers in effectively managing by output, as required for the operation of flexible working arrangements and in a flexible workplace environment, are being developed.
5	Ensure that the types of storage options available to staff are suitable for their short- and long-term personal and departmental needs, and that information thereon is adequately communicated to staff.	Staff can now choose between three sizes for personal storage. Departmental focal points have been informed of this change.
6	Ensure the frequent, proactive monitoring of workspace and information technology and proper installation of technology infrastructure for fully productive use of space.	The Office of Information and Communications Technology has implemented a more proactive monitoring of workspace and information technology.
7	Incorporate performance feedback regarding workspace and information technology into construction details, e.g. feedback on acoustic privacy in enclosed booths, availability of technology or pantry odors.	For focus booths: missing phones and network cables have been replaced. For pantries: the awaited doors have been delivered and installed, which has cut down on noise and odors from the communal lounge areas.
8	Take a bigger step towards more digital work styles: enable easier digitization of documents and processes to make work simpler and smoother.	While the survey showed increased use of digital and electronic tools and working methods, further measures to enable digital work styles continue to be looked into. In this regard, the Office of Information and Communications Technology already hosts regular workshops at Headquarters to educate staff in the use of digital tools.

No.	Recommendation	Project team follow-up
9	Departments and offices need to establish a locker management process that would ensure, upon installation, that the default master combination would be reset to strengthen security. Management should also delegate responsibility for resetting lockers when staff members leave or transfer, as well as for assigning lockers to newcomers.	Guidance and instructions have been resent to the departmental focal points to communicate the information to staff of the offices and departments concerned.
10	Encourage greater use of the flexible workplace website as an additional staff resource for programme information.	It is intended that the flexible workplace website will be incorporated into the website of the Facilities and Commercial Services Division.

V. Flexible working arrangements and a flexible workplace

18. The implementation of a flexible workplace in a staggered approach has offered the Organization the opportunity to observe the needs of staff as they transition into new modes of working. As the Secretariat progresses to expanding the use of a flexible workplace, it is expected that the need to enhance the modalities of flexible working arrangements will become a priority. To this end, and based on the lessons learned from the 2013–2016 period, the Secretary-General's bulletin on flexible working arrangements has been revised to allow staff to work with the most flexibility. The enhanced modalities will allow managers and staff to use telecommuting arrangements in a way that is most suitable to their work context, which includes but is not limited to working from a remote location. In this regard, it is noted that the number of staff across the Secretariat availing themselves of flexible working arrangements in 2017 was approximately 4,100, as reported by departments.

19. Making use of the expanded flexible working arrangements as a strategic priority means taking the time to better understand the imperatives for managers and the challenges and aspirations of staff in order to develop a needs-focused flexible system of working arrangements that is aimed at increasing staff well-being, promoting a healthy work-life balance and ultimately improving staff effectiveness as a whole. Following wide consultations to increase the flexibility of modalities for such arrangements and ensure a clear approval workflow, including remote telecommuting for a period of up to six months, and with the understanding that the authorization to telecommute will not alter the manner in which staff members are managed and evaluated, the revised Secretary-General's bulletin on flexible working arrangements is due to be promulgated by the end of 2018.

20. Results have shown that staff members using flexible working arrangements are productive, more satisfied with their jobs and more motivated. Therefore, a communications plan is being implemented on best practices in the use of flexible working arrangements as part of the implementation of a new flexible workplace, supported by video messages by champions of the process who are demonstrating support and commitment to the use of flexible working arrangements and the technology available to help to support these initiatives. Results have also shown that demonstrated support and commitment from top management and senior leadership is crucial for supervisors to be able to fully implement the use of flexible working arrangements in their departments. Management's open support of flexible working arrangements will have a positive impact on staff commitment to the Organization.

21. Feedback received in the focus group sessions conducted in May 2018 and general feedback received from users over the past year confirms observations made in the previous progress report (see A/72/379, paras. 30–34) that groups of staff who use a flexible workplace show a noticeable increase in the use of telecommuting. Among the factors that appear to be contributing to this is the fact that the transition to a flexible workplace includes a number of aspects that facilitate telecommuting. Staff moving into a flexible workplace are equipped with laptop computers, work in unassigned workspaces, implement clean desk policies and show greater use of electronic communications such as instant messaging and desktop videoconferencing. The Office of Information and Communications Technology has also made advances in the implementation of web-based applications, which include authorization of storage of non-confidential documents in the "cloud". All of these factors tend to free staff from reliance on access to physical files and other localized resources, which in turn facilitates telecommuting. The actual uptake of telecommuting will depend on the degree to which the jobs and tasks performed lend themselves to remote working, the extent to which supervisors encourage or promote telecommuting and other team-related factors.

22. Further to the work done in 2017 to collect data resulting from the pilot group that worked in a flexible workplace over the period 2013–2016, which showed a pattern of preference of telecommuting over other modalities for working in a flexible workplace, additional advocacy initiatives will be implemented. Once the revised Secretary-General's bulletin is promulgated, the Organization plans to increase the advocacy of flexible working arrangements, especially among managers, to raise awareness of the advantages of flexible working modalities. The existing flexible working arrangements and flexible workplace webpages will be enhanced to guide both staff and managers on best practices for implementing the different modalities. Informational sessions will be organized and "pulse polls" will be integrated into the Human Resources Portal and iSeek to monitor the sentiments of staff and managers and issues such as work-life balance.

VI. Project costs

A. Analysis of project costs to date

23. As explained in the first progress report (see A/70/708, paras. 10 and 11), the project team developed the requirements for a construction contract and a systems furniture contract, both tailored to the needs of the project, using modular designs with fixed prices for design elements for the Secretariat Building floors that could be added or subtracted or otherwise adjusted according to the needs of user departments. Subsequently, following competitive tenders, both contracts were executed in May 2017. Both contracts have resulted in unit cost reductions. A comparison of the estimated costs and actual project costs per floor is shown in tables 3 and 4.

Table 3
Project unit costs: estimated average costs per floor
(United States dollars)

Report	*Construction*	*Systems furniture*	*Notes*
A/69/749	351 600.00	512 700.00	
A/70/708	1 102 700.00	421 900.00	
A/72/379	893 800.00	341 300.00	[a]

[a] Estimated unit costs based on tailored contracts.

Table 4
Project unit costs: actual costs per floor
(United States dollars)

Secretariat floor	*Date completed*	*Construction*	*Systems furniture*	*Notes*
18	Jun. 2016	890 954.03	403 125.00	[a]
19	Jun. 2016	1 042 051.50	419 580.00	[a]
13	Jun. 2016	984 738.67	506 280.00	[a]
12	Jul. 2017	805 367.00	306 114.90	[b]
20	Oct. 2017	764 178.88	340 361.79	[b]
21	Oct. 2017	823 639.00	436 688.18	
14	Feb. 2018	797 312.00	425 482.45	
30	Mar. 2018	820 978.00	391 546.34	
31	Apr. 2018	930 954.00	435 207.97	
17	May 2018	722 271.00	364 976.46	
7	Aug. 2018	602 656.00	440 154.57	[b]
11	Jul. 2018	776 483.00	384 715.08	
10	Aug. 2018	805 207.00	387 702.80	

[a] Used previously existing on-call contracts.
[b] Partial floor.

24. The average unit costs of all 13 floors reconfigured to date are $828,21[illegible] and $403,226 for construction and systems furniture, respectively. It is noted, however, that floors 13, 18 and 19 were implemented using on-call contracts, and floors 12 and 20 have either partial or unusual configurations; the average unit costs on full floors that used the tailored contracts, i.e. floors 10, 11, 14, 17, 21, 30 and 31, are $810,978 and $403,760 for construction and systems furniture, respectively.

B. Estimation of project costs for subsequently reconfigured floors

Table 5
Comparison of construction and system furniture costs for Secretariat floors
(United States dollars)

	A/69/749	*A/70/708*	*A/72/379*	*Current report*	*Difference*
			(a)	*(b)*	*(b)-(a)*
Construction	351 600	1 102 700	893 800	810 978	(82 822)
Systems furniture	512 700	421 900	341 300	403 760	62 460
Total unit full floor costs	**864 300**	**1 524 600**	**1 235 100**	**1 214 738**	**(20 362)**

25. The difference between the actual contract costs for implementation on one full floor versus the estimated contract costs shown in the previous report of the Secretary-General shows a slight reduction of $20,362, as indicated in table 5 above. This reflects adjusted quantities in construction work and furniture delivered. Nevertheless, two factors indicate it is desirable to continue to use these contracted unit prices to estimate the project costs of implementation on full floors going forward. Firstly, floors 12 and 20 were only partially reconfigured and thus were somewhat less costly. Secondly, the scope of reconfiguration work for subsequent

phases in 2019 and onwards continues to be subject to user requirements; therefore, the exact costs are still to be determined.

26. The present report continues to estimate unit costs per floor for subsequent phases on the basis of the unit costs of the tailored contracts executed in May 2017. With the addition of the 7th floor, however, it is anticipated that the cost of implementation of the project on a total of 27 floors of the Secretariat Building will fall within the same overall project cost for the previously planned 26 floors.

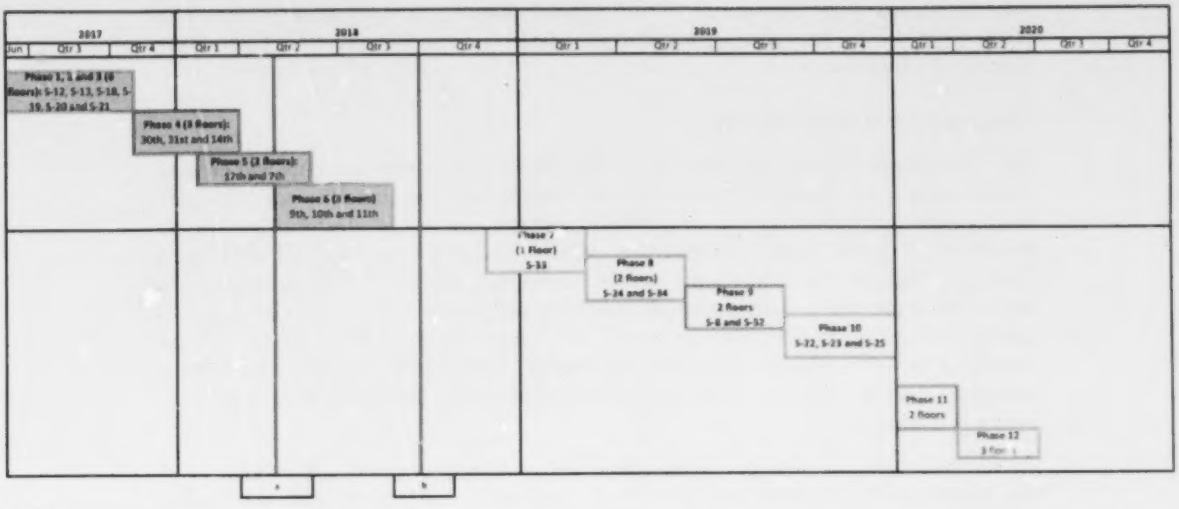
VII. Coordination with offices away from Headquarters and the regional commissions

27. As has been the practice since the flexible workplace project at headquarters began, the project team has been coordinating closely with offices away from Headquarters and regional commissions that are considering flexible workplace strategies as part of new construction or major renovation projects. The project team has provided guidance to offices away from Headquarters and regional commissions on approaches to studying the feasibility and applicability of implementing flexible workplace strategies coincident with their respective construction and renovation projects. In particular, the project team has provided guidance on how to conduct workplace utilization studies. Such studies have been conducted at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Nairobi, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

VIII. Project plan for 2019 and onwards

28. As recommended by the Advisory Committee in its report (see A/72/7/Add.29, para. 11) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/262 A, section XI, paragraph 2, an updated detailed implementation plan is presented in figure II below for the full implementation of the project, which, subject to funding availability, extends into 2020. While the implementation of flexible workplace strategies is not solely about efficiency, as it is also designed to provide a modern office environment that fosters collaboration, the completion of the project in the Secretariat Building will deliver increased occupancy and hence space efficiency, thereby providing opportunities to make further reductions to the lease portfolio.

Figure II
Flexible workplace: full schedule through 2020 (tentative)



Note: The 7th and 12th floors of the Secretariat Building are partial floors. The programme will be implemented on 27 floors in total, but in terms of square footage the number of floors remains 26.

[a] 30 April 2018: United Nations Federal Credit Union Building vacated.

[b] 18 September 2018: Innovation Building to be vacated.

29. The previous report of the Secretary-General estimated that the project would deliver total additional capacity for 1,154 staff members from implementing a flexible workplace on 26 floors in the Secretariat building. As at September 2018, the project will have completed 14 floors and created extra capacity for 690 staff members in the Secretariat Building. Currently, this additional capacity is being and will be used to accommodate staff who have moved as a result of vacating the three commercially leased buildings, as shown in table 1 above. With the addition of the 7th floor, the estimate for total additional capacity on all 27 floors is 1,222 staff members (an increase of 68 from the original estimate of 1,154). In addition to the extra capacity of 690 already created, renovating the remaining 13 floors of the Secretariat Building subsequent to September 2018 would create further additional capacity for 532 staff.

30. Details concerning departments occupying floors before and after implementation of a flexible workplace and the capacities and actual occupancies of each floor are given in the annex to the present report.

Impact of reforms

31. A number of emerging factors will affect the overall requirement for real estate over the next few years, as the flexible workplace project is scheduled to finish. Decisions by the General Assembly on the implementation of the global service delivery model or on other proposals of the Secretary-General will affect office accommodation requirements for staff at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

32. The project has also adjusted its phased schedule to take into account organizational changes approved by the General Assembly with respect to the reform proposals of the Secretary-General in the areas of peace and security, the development system and management. For example, the restructuring of the Department of

Management and the Department of Field Support into the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support will require the relocation of groups of affected staff. Similarly, following decisions regarding the reform of the United Nations development system, the Secretariat will be providing office accommodation for the Development Operations Coordination Office.

Environmental sustainability

33. The flexible workplace project has inherent environmental benefits and creates opportunities to further improve the environmental sustainability of facilities management. By enabling the consolidation of the real estate portfolio into fewer buildings, it automatically lessens the negative environmental impact of United Nations Headquarters on the land, as well as on the climate. Total greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of electricity and other utilities are expected to decrease over the life of the project, as a result of not only the reduced square footage occupied but also substitution by cleaner energy. The sites being vacated purchase electricity sourced from fossil fuel while the main campus purchases electricity from renewable sources.

34. The project has also provided opportunities to improve waste management at the source, with the introduction of best practices in alignment with the United Nations system environmental guidance and the host city's new business recycling laws in force as at August 2017. Centralized waste stations have been incorporated into the design of new floors, starting with the 20th floor, to improve waste separation at the source and reduce the number of plastic liners used for individual waste bins on traditional floors.

IX. Estimated project cost and resource requirements in comparison with previous reports

A. Revised estimated cost of the project

35. The costs and project plan for the implementation of a flexible workplace at Headquarters have been adjusted based on expenditures under the authorized funding of $12,700,600 for 2018.

36. The total cost of the project remains at $54,981,400, of which an amount of $21,648,500 was incurred during the period 2015–2017. The Secretariat does not expect any deviation from the authorized amount of $12,700,600 for 2018 expenditure. The actual expenditure in 2018 as at 31 July 2018 was $8,793,270.

37. The cost to complete the revised project schedule during the period 2019–2020, is $20,632,300, of which $12,700,600 would be required in 2019 (i.e. the remainder of the biennium 2018–2019) and $7,931,700 would be required in 2020.

38. A detailed year-by-year breakdown of the expenditures and estimated project costs is provided in table 6.

Table 6
Projected project cost by activity
(United States dollars)

Project cost, by activity	*2015[a]*	*2016[a]*	*2017[a]*	*2018[b]*	*2019[c]*	*2020[c]*	*Total*
Planning and design services	328 600	966 400	233 200	233 200	233 200	116 600	2 111 200
Secretariat Building reconfiguration and renovation	1 559 800	4 561 000	9 766 800	11 870 200	11 870 200	7 304 800	46 932 800
Swing space	3 104 200	–	–	86 900	86 900	–	3 278 000
Additional moves	26 300	–	–	–	–	–	26 300
Subtotal	**5 018 900**	**5 527 400**	**10 000 000**	**12 190 300**	**12 190 300**	**7 421 400**	**52 348 300**
Project supervision and management	202 000	430 000	470 200	510 300	510 300	510 300	2 633 000
Total	**5 220 900**	**5 957 400**	**10 470 200**	**12 700 600**	**12 700 600**	**7 931 700**	**54 981 400**

[a] 2015–2017 figures are of actual expenditure.
[b] The 2018 figure is the combination of actual expenditure and projected costs (on 31 July 2018, actual expenditure was $8,793,270 and the remaining projected balance was $3,907,330).
[c] 2019–2020 figures are projected costs.

39. The costs of the remaining activities of the revised project in 2019 and 2020 are estimated at $20,632,300, comprising: planning and design services ($349,800), reconfiguration of the Secretariat Building ($19,175,000), maintenance of swing space ($86,900) and the project team ($1,020,600), as described in detail below.

Contractual project planning ($349,800)

40. The remaining estimated costs are based on contracted rates for project planning and change management services. This involves in-depth engagement with the affected departments in each project phase to undertake the work-needs analyses that will inform the design of each floor, and the drafting of communications and presentation materials for outreach to departments and staff.

Secretariat Building reconfiguration and implementation costs ($19,175,000)

41. The remaining estimated costs for the Secretariat Building are based on a similar scope, the new contracted rates obtained through competitive bidding and 2018 estimated expenditure. With 15 floors completed between 2016 and 2018, 12 floors remain to be reconfigured as follows: 7 floors in 2019 and the final 5 floors in 2020.

Swing space ($86,900)

42. Swing space comprises 20,000 square feet in the third basement of the General Assembly Building. The amount of $86,900 includes provision for cleaning and ensuring operations in 2019.

Project management ($1,020,600)

43. The current flexible workplace project management team, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/274 A, consists of one Project Manager (P-5), one Design and Construction Manager (P-4) and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)).

B. Proposed funding of the project

44. The requirements for the implementation of a flexible workplace at Headquarters for the remainder of the biennium 2018–2019 amount to $12,700,600. The implementation of the project during the period 2016–2018 has allowed the Secretariat to relinquish three commercial leases (for the Daily News, Court Square (United Nations Federal Credit Union) and Innovation Buildings) in 2017 and 2018. This will result in reduced rental costs in the biennium 2018–2019 in the amount of $18.8 million ($4.9 million in 2018 and $13.8 million in 2019), as shown in table 7.

Table 7
Resource requirements by biennium: expected project cost and reduction in rental costs

(United States dollars)

Period	*Project costs*	*Savings in rental costs compared with budgeted costs*	*Required appropriation*
2015	5 220 900	–	5 220 900
2016–2017	16 427 600	(1 613 700)	14 813 900
2018–2019	25 401 200	(18 814 600)	6 586 600
2020	7 931 700		7 931 700

Self-financing options

45. After consideration of the previous report of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly decided that project and swing space costs for 2018 would be absorbed within the proposed programme budget for 2018–2019. In this context, the project costs for 2018 are being absorbed through the anticipated reductions in rental costs for the biennium. As a funding mechanism, however, this approach is dependent on (a) the duration of the budget period and (b) at what point during that budget period leases that may no longer be required because of the implementation of the project will expire. If one or more sizable leases expires early on in the budget period, then there may be substantial unspent rental funds available. If, however, leases do not expire until later in the budget period, there may be much less in unspent rental funds.

46. While implementation of further phases of the project could technically be delayed until unspent rental funds within a future budget period are realized, this is deemed inadvisable for a number of reasons. Firstly, the existing tailored contracts for construction and systems furniture would have to be renegotiated, which would likely result in cost escalation and additional mobilization costs. There would also be either additional costs resulting from continuation of the work of the project team during periods of inactivity, or delays and costs as a result of restarting the work of the project team were it to be temporarily discontinued.

47. As noted in the previous report of the Secretary-General (see A/72/379, table 6 and para. 56), savings in rental costs of $18,814,600 are estimated for the biennium 2018–2019. As such, during that biennium, the majority of the project costs of $25,401,200 can be met through the use of the savings of $18,814,600 in rental costs, leaving remaining funding requirements of $6,586,600 that need to be appropriated in order to proceed to the next phases of the project in 2019.

C. Savings in rental costs

48. During the period of full implementation of the flexible workplace project over the six-year period from 2015 to 2020, the Organization would save $57.8 million in

rental costs to the end of 2021. This amount would otherwise have been incurred by the Organization if it had not terminated the leases of three commercial buildings. Implementation of the project would therefore result in net savings in the amount of $2.8 million to the Organization over the period 2015–2021 (see table 8).

Table 8
Comparison of project costs and rental costs
(United States dollars)

Period	*Project costs*	*Rental costs that would otherwise have been incurred during this period*	*Cost net savings*
2015	5 220 900	–	(5 220 900)
2016–2017	16 427 600	1 613 700	(14 813 900)
2018–2019	25 401 200	23 655 700	(1 745 500)
2020	7 931 700	16 275 950	8 344 250
2021	–	16 275 950	16 275 950
Total	**54 981 400**	**57 821 300**	**2 839 900**

49. After completion of the project, the annual reduction in rental costs resulting from the termination of the three leases, based on current lease figures, would total $16,275,950.

X. Project next steps and resource requirements

50. Subject to approval by the General Assembly, the Secretariat would:

(a) Continue to implement further phases of the flexible workplace project as indicated in the schedule shown in section VIII and in accordance with the project cost plan in section IX above;

(b) Continue advocacy and engagement with Headquarters departments and staff to promote leadership and ensure that the project benefits and positive outcomes are achieved;

(c) Continue to incorporate lessons learned from implemented phases into subsequent project phases;

(d) Continue to advise project owners to ensure that flexible workplace strategies are an integral part of the planning and design phases of ongoing global capital projects, that targets and efficiencies to be expected from the implementation of a flexible workplace are established and lessons learned and best practices are shared with offices away from Headquarters and regional commissions.

XI. Actions requested of the General Assembly

51. **The General Assembly is requested:**

(a) **To approve the implementation of further phases of the project as indicated in the schedule shown in section VIII and in accordance with the project cost plan in section IX;**

(b) **To approve the continuation of three temporary positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)) for the project team;**

(c) To authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the amount of $12,700,600 in respect of the project costs in 2019;

(d) To appropriate the amount of $6,586,600 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund;

(e) To request the Secretary-General to submit the next report to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-fourth session.

Annex

Capacity of the Secretariat Building floors before and after the implementation of flexible workplace

	Occupying department(s)		*Reconfiguration schedule*		*Designed capacity*			*Achieved capacity*		
Floor	*Pre-project*	*Post-project*	*Start*	*End*	*Pre-implementation*	*Post-implementation (based on preliminary design)*	*Increase*	*Post-implementation actual*	*Post-implementation increase*	*Current headcounts[a]*
37	Executive Office of the Secretary-General	Executive Office of the Secretary-General	2020	2020	81	81	0			
36	Office of Legal Affairs	Office of Legal Affairs	2020	2020	93	93	0			
35	Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Political Affairs	Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Political Affairs	2020	2020	96	147	51			
34	Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Political Affairs	Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Political Affairs	2019	2019	89	130	41			
33	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	2018	2019	85	130	45			
32	Department of Management, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Office of the Special Adviser on Africa	Department of Management, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and Office of the Special Adviser on Africa	2019	2019	79	133	54			

	Occupying department(s)		Reconfiguration schedule		Designed capacity			Achieved capacity		
Floor	Pre-project	Post-project	Start	End	Pre-implementation	Post-implementation (based on preliminary design)	Increase	Post-implementation actual	Post-implementation increase	Current headcounts[a]
31	Office for Disarmament Affairs, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Complete	Complete	92	125	33	140	48	117
30	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and Peacebuilding Support Office	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and Office for Disarmament Affairs	Complete	Complete	82	130	48	132	50	109
29	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	2020	2020	73	108	35			
28	Mechanical	Mechanical								
27	Meeting rooms	Meeting rooms								
26	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	2020	2020	91	135	44			
25	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	2019	2019	86	135	49			
24	Department of Political Affairs	Department of Political Affairs	2019	2019	92	147	55			
23	Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Department of Peacekeeping Operations	2019	2019	91	137	46			
22	Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Department of Peacekeeping Operations	2019	2019	90	137	47			
21	Department of Management (Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts)	Department of Management (Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts)	Complete	Complete	89	140	51	139	50	121

Floor	Occupying department(s)		Reconfiguration schedule		Designed capacity			Achieved capacity		Current headcounts[a]
	Pre-project	Post-project	Start	End	Pre-implementation	Post-implementation (based on preliminary design)	Increase	Post-implementation actual	Post-implementation increase	
20	Department of Management (Office of Central Support Services and Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts)	Department of Management (Office of Central Support Services and Executive Office)	Complete	Complete	79	140	61	119	40	116
19	Department of Management (Office of Human Resources Management)	Department of Management (Office of Human Resources Management)	Complete	Complete	89	140	51	138	49	135
18	Department of Management (Office of Human Resources Management)	Department of Management (Office of Human Resources Management)	Complete	Complete	87	140	53	140	53	136
17	Department of Field Support	Department of Field Support	Complete	Complete	90	140	50	140	50	127
16	Mechanical	Mechanical								
15	Meeting rooms	Meeting rooms								
14	Department of Field Support	Department of Field Support	Complete	Complete	88	140	52	140	52	137
13	Department of Management (Office of Information and Communications Technology) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Department of Management (Office of Information and Communications Technology)	Complete	Complete	74	125	51	130	56	110
12	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Complete	Complete	67	135	68	135	68	95
11	Department of Public Information	Department of Public Information	Complete	Complete	89	137	48	140	51	115
10	Department of Public Information	Department of Public Information	25 May 2018	24 Aug. 2018	85	127	42	140	55	132

	Occupying department(s)		*Reconfiguration schedule*		*Designed capacity*			*Achieved capacity*		
Floor	*Pre-project*	*Post-project*	*Start*	*End*	*Pre-implementation*	*Post-implementation (based on preliminary design)*	*Increase*	*Post-implementation actual*	*Post-implementation increase*	*Current headcounts*[a]
9	Department of Public Information	Department of Public Information	7 June 2018	7 Sep. 2018	77	108	31	140	55	
8	Department of Safety and Security	Department of Safety and Security	2019	2019	79	127	48			
7	Department of Safety and Security, United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre and Department of Public Information	Department of Safety and Security, United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Public Information	Complete	Complete	72	Not part of the original planning	Not part of the original planning	140	68	104
Total					**2 285**	**3 367**	**1 154**	**1 913**	**690**	**1 554**

[a] Current projected totals and numbers achieved to date.

United Nations A/73/370/Corr.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 October 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 136
Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Progress report on the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 51 (d)

For the existing text *substitute*

(d) To appropriate the amount of $6,586,600 under component 5, Division of Administration, New York, of subsection 29B, Department of Operational Support, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund;

18-16722 (E) 081018

Please recycle

United Nations A/73/371

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 September 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 72 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

A global call for action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/157, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of that resolution.

* A/73/150.

** The present report is submitted late owing to a delayed clearance beyond the control of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

18-14879 (E) 170918

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 72/157, the General Assembly recognized that millions of people continued to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary manifestations, some of which manifest in violent forms. The Assembly reiterated that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies. It further stressed that any doctrine of racial superiority, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races, is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected. The Assembly acknowledged the efforts and initiatives undertaken by States to prohibit discrimination and segregation and to engender the full enjoyment of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts made by civil society in support of the follow-up mechanisms in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Assembly also underlined the need to promote tolerance and respect for diversity and the need to seek common ground among and within civilizations in order to address common challenges to humanity that threaten shared values, universal human rights and the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion. It raised concerns about the spread in many parts of the world of various racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seek to promote populist, nationalist, right-wing agendas and racial superiority, and stressed that those practices fuel racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Assembly requested that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of resolution 72/157 at its seventy-third session.

3. In preparing the present report, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sought contributions from Member States and other stakeholders, as requested in resolution 72/157. Submissions were received from 14 States: Azerbaijan, Brazil, Cuba, Guatemala, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Mexico, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Contributions were also received from the Institute for NGO Research and the Kha-Nu National Community (formerly known as Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation). The submissions are posted on the OHCHR website under the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Racism/IntergovWG/Pages/IWGIndex.aspx). The present report follows previous annual reports on the same subject. It summarizes the submissions received, provides information on activities undertaken by OHCHR and provides conclusions and recommendations on that basis.

II. Legislative and administrative frameworks

Legislative developments

4. As outlined in paragraph 58 of the Durban Programme of Action, States are urged to adopt and implement, at both the national and international levels, effective measures and policies, in addition to existing anti-discrimination national legislation and relevant international instruments and mechanisms, which encourage all citizens and institutions to take a stand against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

5. In their submissions for the present report, States shared examples of their existing national legal frameworks to counter discrimination. For instance, Iraq referred to article 2 of its labour law (No. 37/2015), which guarantees adequate employment to all without any discrimination. Article 4 of that law stipulates that work is a right for every capable citizen and that the State shall ensure that recruitment is carried out on the basis of equal opportunities without any form of discrimination. Article 6, paragraph 4, refers to the elimination of discrimination in recruitment and occupation, and article 8, paragraph 1, refers to the prohibition of any transgression or violation of the principles of equal opportunities and equality in treatment, particularly discrimination between workers, whether direct or indirect, in matters relating to vocational training, employment and working conditions. Article 11, paragraph 2, provides for the punishment of violators of the provisions on discrimination, and article 42, paragraph 1 (c), stipulates that a worker has the right to equal opportunities and treatment in recruitment and employment without any form of discrimination. Article 48, paragraph 1 (e), provides that no employment contract shall be terminated on the basis of direct or indirect discrimination in recruitment or occupation.

6. Portugal highlighted its adoption of a new anti-discrimination law (No. 93/2017), which entered into force on 1 September 2017 and established a legal framework for the prevention, prohibition and combat of discrimination on the basis of racial and ethnic origin, colour, nationality, descent and place of origin. The composition of the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination was also increased to 31 advisers, including a representative of the Roma communities and a representative from each parliamentary group of the Portuguese Parliament. The High Commission for Migration, through the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination, is responsible for all phases of the administrative offence procedure within its areas of competence, including the reception and analysis of complaints, instructions and decisions, as well as the coordination of actions to prevent, inspect and combat discriminatory practices. The law expanded the scope of intervention by the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination with a mandate to determine the fines and additional sanctions to be applied. In addition to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, nationality and ethnic origin, the law defined new forms of discrimination for the first time, including discrimination on the basis of descent and place of origin, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and discrimination by association (being related to and/or associating with a person or group of persons who possess the criteria being protected).

7. The text of the law also foresees the possibility for the parties in conflict to find a solution through a mediation procedure at their request or by indication from the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination, with the consent of the aggressor and of the victim or of his or her legal representatives. The new law also allows migrants' associations to represent the victim, providing a greater sense of security and protection. Therefore, with the new law, protections against discriminatory practices have been further developed and the composition of the Commission reinforced. The new law also enables the Commission to collect evidence in cases of racial discrimination and to handle the entire procedure from beginning to end, increasing its efficiency. In addition, the amount of the maximum fines has been raised.

National human rights institutions, plans of action, strategies and policies

8. Paragraphs 90 to 95 of the Durban Programme of Action urges States, as appropriate, to establish, strengthen, review and reinforce the effectiveness of independent national human rights institutions, particularly on issues of racism, racial

discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and to provide them with adequate financial resources, competencies and capacities for investigation, research, education and public awareness activities to combat those phenomena.

9. Iraq referred to a number of policies it has implemented to promote social justice and combat racial discrimination in State institutions in the areas of employment and work performance and to attract talent and educational and professional expertise.

10. Italy reported that, on 7 August 2015, it approved the National Action Plan against Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance, which has as its core objectives equal treatment and non-discrimination. The Plan considers, inter alia, the eradication of direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion, descent or national ethnic origin to be of utmost importance. In addition, the Plan addresses the most serious aspects of multiple discrimination, including all instances of discrimination on several discrimin tory grounds, such as sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or other characteristics, suffered by those who are perceived to have two or more of those characteristics.

11. The National Action Plan provides for several work streams related to employment, accommodation, education, health, public administration, law enforcement, sport, mass media and communication. For each area of intervention, the Plan invokes four distinct steps: (a) a preamble that defines the specific scope of fighting discrimination, taking into consideration the results of recent data analysis and investigations; (b) an outline of critical issues deemed to be of high priority; (c) the general objectives necessary to counter discrimination; and (d) the identification of remedial measures, positive actions and good practices to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

12. The Republic of Moldova highlighted its national human rights policy for the period 2018–2022, which provides for many fields of intervention, such as the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and includes measures to: (a) raise awareness among minority religious communities on their rights; (b) improve the mechanisms for the proper fulfilment of the State's obligations in ensuring the enjoyment of the right to freedom of conscience, thought and religion; and (c) strengthen the mechanisms for protection against discrimination. The policy also recommends interventions to address non-discrimination and equality, such as the establishment of a mechanism for collecting disaggregated data on bias-motivated offenses.

III. Education and awareness-raising measures aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

13. Paragraph 58 of the Durban Programme of Action urges States to recognize, respect and maximize the benefits of diversity within and among all nations in working together to build a harmonious and productive future by putting into practice and promoting specific values and principles. Those principles include justice, equality and non-discrimination, democracy, fairness and friendship, tolerance and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and education programmes to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity.

14. In that regard, Iraq noted that it integrates information on the rights of minorities into textbooks and curricula for students, including civic and social education, Islamic studies and instruction books on Arabic. The Government also uses media outreach through its Iraqi Education Channel and other media, creates posters in coordination with civil society and organizes workshops and meetings with civil society organizations concerned with minority rights.

15. Mexico launched several awareness-raising campaigns, such as the campaign entitled "XeNOphobia", which was developed by the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination with the objective of changing perceptions on migrants and foreigners and eradicating the stigmas associated with them and the crimes committed against them. Another campaign focusing on migrants is entitled "We Are With You", which uses the slogan "Disinformation will no longer be a risk". That campaign is aimed at informing migrants about the support services to which they are entitled, raising awareness among public service officers and raising public awareness to promote a culture of respect, tolerance and non-discrimination towards migrants.

16. Portugal highlighted that various activities have been developed by the High Commission for Migration in combating racism and discrimination. The Internet campaign "Discover your colour!" includes a dedicated website and Facebook page. In four cities across the country in 2017, a number of initiatives were undertaken at public schools, including a play and discussions and reflections among the students about combating discrimination, as well as a collaboration between artists and children to paint murals. In 2018, the High Commission for Migration also promoted a national contest asking children and youth to produce written contributions on the subject.

IV. Awareness-raising and training for law enforcement officials and the judiciary

17. Paragraph 133 of the Durban Programme for Action urges States to develop and strengthen anti-racist and gender-sensitive human rights training for public officials, including personnel in the administration of justice, particularly in law enforcement, correctional and security services, as well as among health-care, school and migration authorities.

18. Brazil provided information on its training programme for swift mediation of conflicts, which was launched by the Ministry of Human Rights and the Ministry of Justice in March 2017. It consists of specific training for law enforcement officers, including civil and military police officers as well as the civilian guard, which provides guidance on how to deal with victims of racism and religious intolerance and how to support the work of police stations and specialized centres when dealing with crimes of racism and intolerance.

19. In order to expand access to the training programme, the Secretariat for Policies to Promote Racial Equality of the Ministry of Human Rights has been working in coordination with the National Secretariat of Public Security of the Ministry of Public Security to implement online training on cases of crimes of racism and religious intolerance. The purpose of the training is to help law enforcement officers better identify and register crimes of racism, racial injury and religious violence, in accordance with the national legal framework; provide mediation and resolve conflicts; and raise awareness about institutionalized forms of racism among law enforcement officers and the general population. As a result, 3,335 persons were trained and certified in 14 states.

20. Brazil further noted that the Ministry of Human Rights has encouraged the creation of specialized centres for crimes of racism and intolerance in several states and municipalities. The centres help promote support services for the victims of those crimes.

21. Cuba reported on the various training sessions it has held that target the police and military forces with a view to promoting a more inclusive society. The General Bureau of Fiscal Services of the Republic, the People's Supreme Court and the police academies organize yearly courses to prepare their agents on topics related to racial discrimination and human rights.

22. Italy reported that a series of directives has been issued with regard to public order. In particular, a directive of the Director General of Public Security and Chief of Police, dated 21 January 2009 (No. 555/op/490/2009/1/NC), provides guidance with a view to establishing new police ethics focused on transparency, tolerance and proportionality. Particular attention is given to the special training of police personnel with regard to ethical and cultural issues, communication skills and operational techniques. A training centre for protecting public order was established in December 2008 in Nettuno (near Rome), with a view to strengthening and promoting a new culture of public order oriented towards prevention and dialogue, and enhancing the professionalism of police personnel. Further training activities focusing on the unlawful use of force have been carried out for patrol units. In addition, the qualifying courses for border police provide a specific course on human rights and the main international mechanisms to protect fundamental human rights.

23. With regard to targeted training to counter discrimination in all its forms, the National Office against Racial Discrimination of Italy has signed a memorandum of understanding with the national Observatory for Security against Acts of Discrimination[1] to share substantiated reports of hate-related crimes. According to the memorandum, the National Office forwards to the Observatory any case of discrimination liable for prosecution reported to its contact centre, and in turn the Observatory sends to the National Office any report it has received that is not liable for prosecution. Both agencies, in partnership with civil society, have launched a vast programme to prevent and combat discrimination and to increase the awareness of law enforcement regarding all the provisions prohibiting racism and racial discrimination. Since 2012, almost 9,500 officers have been trained.

24. Kuwait reported that it had organized training courses for the members of the judiciary. The Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, in collaboration with OHCHR, provided training courses for jurists in the field of human rights, enhancing their knowledge about international human rights and promoting its values and principles. In addition, in 2017 and 2018, the Institute taught courses on human rights to legal researchers who were candidates for promotion to the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

25. Mexico reported that the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination has been designated as a national body to provide orientation, education and training and to raise awareness and prepare and train public servants in non-discrimination. The Council created a website called *Conéctate*, which is intended to raise awareness on the right to equality and non-discrimination and help civil servants and various stakeholders identify, prevent and eliminate discriminatory practices that can occur in their work, social or family environment. The website offers courses on equality and non-discrimination, tolerance and diversity of faiths, migration and xenophobia,

[1] In 2017 and 2018, the Observatory provided training to Italian police officers on preventing and countering discrimination in all its forms with the support of police officers, the Department for Equal Opportunities, Amnesty International, the non-profit organization Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries (COSPE) and Rete Lenford (the Lenford Network).

measures of equality in the framework of the Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination and the right to equality and non-discrimination of the African-Mexican population, among others.

V. Promotion of multiculturalism, interculturalism and integration

26. Paragraph 30 (c) of the Durban Programme of Action urges States to implement specific measures involving the host community and migrants in order to encourage respect for cultural diversity, promote the fair treatment of migrants and develop programmes, where appropriate, that facilitate their integration into social, cultural, political and economic life.

27. In Azerbaijan, the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre was established in 2014 to carry out studies, raise public awareness and work with different communities and society at large through various projects in areas of intercultural and intercommunity dialogue, peaceful coexistence, tolerance and non-discrimination.

28. In Italy, at the parliamentary level, a committee on hate, intolerance, xenophobia and racism (the Jo Cox Committee) was set up in May 2016. The Committee adopted its final report at its session of 6 July 2017. The report contained 56 recommendations for preventing and combating hatred. The recommendations were addressed to all relevant entities, including the Government of Italy, regulatory and supervisory authorities, institutions of the European Union, international organizations, the media, press associations and journalist unions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

29. Portugal reported that, in 2017, 101 awareness-raising sessions were conducted on the topics of interculturalism and migration. Some 2,000 participants attended the sessions, which were hosted by schools, municipalities, social security services and immigrant associations. Portugal also noted the existence of a training network established in 2006 as a resource to all entities that intend to organize training sessions in the area of interculturalism at the national level.

30. Portugal also noted that the High Commission for Migration, to combat racism and discrimination, has invested in the promotion of interculturality in Portuguese society, which includes valuing cultural and religious diversity and promoting mutual understanding and positive interaction among citizens, groups and public service professionals. It also includes the promotion of diversity in private and public organizations (in accordance with the Portuguese Diversity Charter) by the Intercultural Dialogue Unit.

31. The United Kingdom reported that it will invest £50 million (more than 63 million United States dollars) in integration over the next two years to support the priorities set out in the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper. Action will be taken to help build integrated communities by strengthening leadership, supporting recent migrants and resident communities, boosting support for English language instruction and encouraging shared community activities and spaces. Efforts will also be made to increase the economic opportunities for communities that are underrepresented in the job market, empower women, tackle hate crime and hate speech online, support communities of faith and encourage interfaith dialogue to break down barriers that fuel intolerance and unequal treatment.

VI. Monitoring activities

32. Brazil noted that the Secretariat for Policies to Promote Racial Equality is working with the Observatory for Human Rights of the Federal Intervention in the Public Security of the State of Rio de Janeiro (ObservaRIO), which was created by the Ministry of Human Rights in February 2018. The Secretariat has developed a methodology for ObservaRIO that focuses on the fulfilment of the needs of the general population and in particular the Black population. The initial actions implemented include follow-up to and enhancement of the work of various social stakeholders in historically marginalized communities, acknowledgement of the presence and history of the people living in those communities, coordination between several authorities and institutions with a view to safeguarding rights and supporting the implementation of affirmative action and the promotion of the principles of education for diversity and citizenship rights.

33. Italy underlined that the monitoring activity and analysis of discrimination is ongoing and is carried out by collecting reports on discrimination disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, disability, religion, gender identity and sexual orientation through the various available channels, including the "Green Line" telephone number, institutional emails, websites and the network of the National Office against Racial Discrimination. In particular, 3,655 cases were processed by the National Office in 2017, 3,334 of which were discrimination cases. A steady increase in the number of cases processed has become noticeable over the past few years: 3,655 cases were processed in 2017, compared with 2,235 in 2015 and 1,627 in 2014. That confirms the need for the role played by the National Office, which, together with its contact centre, offers professional and qualified listening services as well as the ability to easily and quickly make reports online. Those efforts have contributed to addressing the phenomenon of underreporting.

34. Also in Italy, the National Office against Racial Discrimination has been actively involved in dealing with online hate speech through the activity of the Observatory on Media and the Internet. By extending the monitoring provided for traditional media, the National Office aims to research, monitor and analyse on a daily basis any potentially discriminatory content coming from social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, GooglePlus and YouTube. Through the use of specific software and a set of keywords, it will also monitor social media articles, blogs and forum comments. The National Office has also contributed to the monitoring exercise to assess the Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online developed by the European Commission, which designated the National Office as a "trusted flagger" at an institutional level. In that capacity, during the National Office's third monitoring exercise, carried out from 6 November to 15 December 2017, Italy sent 269 reports to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube asking for the removal of illegal content online that amounted to hate speech.

VII. Promotion of cultural diversity and the rights of people of African descent

35. Paragraph 4 of the Durban Programme for Action urges States to facilitate the participation of people of African descent in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society and in the advancement and economic development of their countries, and to promote a greater knowledge of and respect for their heritage and culture.

36. Cuba reported that it has developed multiple programmes focusing on racial problems, which have led to interconnected work between State institutions and civil

society organizations with a view to increasing the visibility of the rich African heritage of the country through various media outlets, education programmes, publications and social media sites. Cuba noted that the Central Committee of the Communist Party coordinates a national group composed of members of the scientific and cultural communities, as well as experts in marketing, that proposes measures to fight racism. Among its proposals, the group encouraged increased consciousness of racial diversity in Cuba, an analysis of the role Black and mixed race populations have played in Cuban history, investigations into social history and the study of the concept of racial discrimination.

37. Cuba further noted that the José Antonio Aponte Commission of the Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba actively works on issues related to slavery and the slave trade and their impact on Cuban culture and identity, as well as their social effects, in an attempt to address the ideologies of racism and any of their manifestations, including social exclusion.

38. Guatemala reported that the "Central American encounter on comparative experiences of the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent: progress, challenges and obstacles" was launched on 26 October 2017, with the participation of delegates from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, in order to promote a space for dialogue and analysis of the comparative experiences in the Central American region.

39. Guatemala also noted that, within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent, the country will launch an exhibition of photographs that includes contributions from people of African descent and Garifuna communities. The objective is to present photographs that emphasize how people of African descent and Garifuna communities have contributed to the development of Guatemala.

40. Guatemala also emphasized the urgent need to make people of African descent visible, identify their problems and needs, give them due recognition and grant them a leading role in the decisions related to their own development. In order to determine the number of people of African descent living in Guatemala and to contribute to the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to "leave no one behind", an option has been incorporated into the census ballot framework of the next population and housing census that reads "people of African descent/Creole/ Afro-mestizo". That process was conducted in consultation with civil society organizations and with the support of the United Nations Population Fund and OHCHR.

41. Mexico launched a campaign called "I am African! Recognize and Count Me" within the framework of the 2015 census of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography. The census included a question on whether respondents self-identified as being of African or African-Mexican descent. That allowed census-takers to collect increased knowledge about that group, which should increase their visibility and participation in public policies.

42. Portugal noted that, with a view to celebrating the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development on 21 May, in 2018 the High Commission for Migration called for the submission of scientific articles for publication in an upcoming issue of the High Commission's *Migration Magazine* devoted to people of African descent in Portugal. The edition of the magazine intends to mark the International Decade for People of African Descent. The articles are to be submitted on the following topics: "people of African descent: concept, categories and analytical dimensions"; "people of African descent in history"; "people of African descent in Portugal and the present situation: what we know and what we do not know"; "challenges with racial and ethnic categories and statistical dilemmas"; "people of African descent and integration in schools"; "people of African descent and

integration in the labour market"; "people of African descent, housing and life conditions"; "people of African descent and health"; "people of African descent, political rights and integration in politics"; "people of African descent in the legal framework and human rights"; "people of African descent, criminality and justice"; "people of African descent, racism and racial and ethnic discrimination"; "people of African descent and gender issues"; and "people of African descent in the media and social perceptions". A prize of €2,000 will be awarded to the best scientific article, and the 10 best scientific articles will be published in a special volume of *Migration Magazine* in 2018.

43. Uruguay highlighted its law (No. 19122) that expressly recognized the historical discrimination suffered by the population of African descent in the country. To improve the enjoyment of all human rights of people of African descent, the law established affirmative action programmes in the educational and employment fields to encourage racial equality.

44. Uruguay also noted that, in April 2018, an agreement was signed between the City Council of Montevideo and the Ministry of Social Development that created a technical working group to advise and monitor compliance with the law and develop training courses for officials. That initiative will be replicated in various governmental departments across the country.

45. Within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent, Uruguay recognizes July as the month of African descent. Throughout the entire month a series of activities across the country are held in which several State agencies and civil society organizations call upon the general public to mobilize and become aware of the issues surrounding discrimination against people of African descent.

VIII. Protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

46. Paragraphs 24 to 36 of the Durban Programme of Action address the need to protect migrants, refugees and asylum seekers against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

47. Azerbaijan reported that foreigners and stateless persons within its territorial jurisdiction enjoy the same rights as citizens. Foreigners and stateless persons are afforded legal protection by the Constitution of Azerbaijan and other complimentary legislation, and refugees enjoy the protection of non-refoulement. In addition, migrants can apply for urgent or special aid without any limitation or discrimination, and are eligible to receive work pensions.

48. Ireland reports that it is currently operationalizing a comprehensive migrant integration strategy, which it launched in February 2017 as a whole-of-Government strategy. The strategy aims to ensure the vision of an Ireland where migrants are able to play a full role in Irish society, integration is a core principle of Irish life and Irish society and institutions work together to promote integration and combat intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization based on ethnic or religious discrimination or intolerance. The strategy will be implemented over the coming years through a series of initiatives across all branches of Government. It includes a number of actions to promote intercultural awareness and to combat racism and xenophobia. It also includes an action to review the current legislation on racially motivated crime with a view to strengthening the law. The strategy is also intended to address the issue of underreporting of racially motivated crime. The Irish Government has committed

significant resources to language training and skill-enhancing programmes to help integrate people into society. Through open funding proposals, close to €10 million (more than 11 million United States dollars) has been granted to 40 national and 130 regional projects to support integration during the next three to four years with funding from both the European Union and the Irish Government. The majority of the projects are led by community and voluntary organizations that are implementing a range of activities, including projects that have a language focus to support the integration of migrants.

49. In 2014, the Government of Portugal decided to expand its action plans, which had formerly been focused only on the integration of immigrants, to define a national strategy for migration flows, including measures that focused not only on immigrants but also on asylum seekers and refugees. The Strategic Plan for Migration 2015–2020 includes methods to address the integration of immigrants and naturalized citizens, the coordination of migration flows and the strengthening of legal migration channels and the quality of migration services, and address the need for greater monitoring and support to Portuguese citizens who have emigrated to other countries. Regarding other legislative developments, Portugal highlighted the adoption of a new anti-discrimination law (No. 93/2017), which entered into force on 1 September 2017. The law establishes the legal framework for the prevention, prohibition and combat of discrimination on the basis of racial and ethnic origin, colour, nationality, descent and place of origin.

50. With regard to migrant women in Portugal, the Strategic Plan for Migration adopts concrete measures for the promotion of equality between migrant women and men and for the reinforcement of the independence and the professional and civic integration of migrant women in Portuguese society. Recognizing the importance of mainstreaming gender equality in the area of migration, the High Commission for Migration is committed to improving the lives of migrant women, including refugee women. Presently, Portugal is working on an internal assessment on how to better respond to the needs of those women in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, namely public authorities and non-governmental organizations.

51. Mexico reported that the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination, in collaboration with the Undersecretary for Population, Migration and Religious Affairs of the Ministry of the Interior and the National Institute of Migration, prepared a guide to prevent racial profiling. The objective of the guide is to help federal immigration agents avoid profiling practices in their daily work. In addition, the guide also serves as a training and awareness-raising tool for public service personnel who belong to auxiliary authorities involved in migration matters. The guide includes a definition of racial profiling and the applicable international, regional and national frameworks against discrimination and racial profiling. It also addresses the causes, consequences, illegality and inefficiency of racial profiling practices. Finally, it establishes admissible and non-admissible criteria for the use of physical or ethnic characteristics in acts of revision, verification and migration control.

52. Turkey reported that its Directorate General of Migration Management, with a view to facilitating the integration and inclusion of foreigners into Turkish society, supports various multidimensional activities that aim to help them contribute economically, socially and culturally to the host society. Efforts are undertaken under the principles of voluntariness and harmonization, and foreigners are not subjected to examinations in relation to those activities.

53. The United Kingdom reported that the rights of migrant workers are protected in domestic legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010. Furthermore, migrants who are legally working in the United Kingdom enjoy full protection under the country's employment law. Migrant workers are also

entitled to the same protections under health and safety legislation as any other worker. The country has a range of means-tested, tax-funded cash benefits. In most cases, claimants must be habitually resident in the United Kingdom to qualify. Benefits include maintenance income, an income-based jobseeker's allowance, an income-related employment and support allowance, income support, a working tax credit and housing benefits. Refugees have access to those benefits, as do certain other non-nationals if they are lawfully in the country and their immigration status allows it. Asylum seekers who are destitute are provided with accommodation and a basic living allowance. They also receive free medical care and their children have access to State education. Asylum seekers whose claims have been rejected are provided with similar support if they are temporarily prevented from leaving the country. Other irregular migrants may receive support from local authorities in limited circumstances, most often in situations where that is necessary to safeguard the welfare of their children.

IX. Contributions of the Durban follow-up mechanisms and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

54. The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action held its fifteenth session in Geneva from 9 to 20 October 2017 and submitted its report (A/HRC/37/77) to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh session. The Working Group exchanged and discussed good practices on measures undertaken to promote societies that are more inclusive, such as training and awareness-raising activities for law enforcement and the judiciary, the monitoring and investigation of incidents of hate speech and hate crime and the protection of migrants and refugees against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. OHCHR organized and provided services to the sessions of the Durban follow-up mechanisms.

55. In 2017, the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/157, and the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 34/36, requested that the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination commence, at the tenth session of the Ad Hoc Committee, negotiations on a draft additional protocol to the Convention criminalizing acts of a racist and xenophobic nature. The tenth session of the Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled to take place from 8 to 19 October 2018. While criminalization could be an important response to contemporary issues of racial discrimination, a parallel approach that builds on the preceding work of the Ad Hoc Committee over the past several years could also be considered with regard to topics such as addressing procedural gaps and enhancing national protection mechanisms, education and awareness-raising activities, among others. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee is not merely to agree on new standards, but also to think of ways to strengthen the protection of all persons from the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as articulated in the Durban Programme of Action.

56. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent submitted its annual report (A/HRC/36/60) to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-sixth session, including reports on its country visits to Canada (A/HRC/36/60/Add.1) and Germany (A/HRC/36/60/Add.2), and engaged in a constructive dialogue with Member States. The Working Group also submitted its annual report (A/72/319) to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session and participated in an interactive dialogue with the Third Committee. The Working Group conducted country visits to Guyana

(2–6 October 2017) and Spain (19–26 February 2018). In accordance with its mandate, the Working Group also issued communications regarding allegations of human rights violations. The Working Group has established the International Decade for People of African Descent as a standing agenda item for discussion in its public session in order to further raise understanding and awareness on the need to implement the International Decade. On 25 and 26 November 2017, the Working Group also organized a meeting in Geneva on addressing racial stereotypes of people of African descent.

57. With regard to the Group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Secretary-General appointed two new independent eminent experts in May 2018: Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, a professor, scholar and diplomat from Nigeria, who is also the founder and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development; and Saied A. Ashshowwaf, a professor from Saudi Arabia who has been a member of the Human Rights Council of Saudi Arabia since 2011.

58. Regarding the implementation of a programme of activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent, OHCHR organized a regional meeting in Geneva, in November 2017, to reflect on ways and means that Governments from Europe, Central Asia and North America could integrate the provisions of the programme into their own policies, programmes and strategies, in partnership with national human rights institutions, civil society, development agencies and regional organizations.

59. OHCHR continues to organize the fellowship programme for people of African descent, which provides participants with an intensive learning opportunity to deepen their understanding of the United Nations human rights system, instruments and mechanisms, with a focus on issues of particular relevance to people of African descent. Since the programme began in 2011, 49 fellows from 26 countries have participated. Building on the programme, several fellows subsequently have carried out human rights awareness and capacity-building initiatives at the national level, including training programmes for civil society representatives and organizations, working to promote the rights of people of African descent. In 2017, 12 fellows from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Guyana, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela participated in the fellowship programme.

60. As part of its capacity development activities, OHCHR launched a pilot project in 2017 entitled "Better Ways", which endeavours to identify and promote practical measures that enhance evidence-based policing and reduce incidents of bias-based policing. Within the framework of that project, the Office organized the first expert meeting in Geneva from 14 to 15 June 2017. The meeting on law enforcement and bias-based policing was attended by 20 experts from 17 countries; the majority were police officers, including senior officials. They discussed various issues related to bias-based policing, such as the impact of unconscious biases, human rights norms and good practices with regard to institutional measures and training.

61. With regard to capacity-building for national human rights institutions and entities working for equality, and following previous regional meetings with such institutions in countries in Central Africa and the Middle East and North Africa, OHCHR organized a workshop in 2017 for national human rights institutions and entities working for equality in East Africa and Southern Africa to build their capacity to address issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

62. With regard to the issue of human trafficking, OHCHR assisted in building the capacity of Member States to ensure that their laws, policies and administrative

regulations comply with international human rights standards in the area of human trafficking. Over the past decade, the Office has assisted countries in Central Europe, the Middle East and North Africa with integrating human rights into their responses to trafficking, including the trafficking of migrants. In several countries in Africa, the Office has helped organize workshops and training sessions to educate border control officers about international and regional human rights instruments regarding people on the move, and strengthen their capacities to protect and identify human rights violations. More recently, the Office has supported civil aviation authorities and airlines on their role in identifying trafficking victims, in particular through the development of a joint document by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and OHCHR that provides guidance for cabin crew regarding the identification of and response to victims of trafficking. The project also included the development of an awareness-raising message to be broadcast in airplanes. The guidelines were launched in Geneva on 28 May 2018 during the first ICAO-OHCHR Joint Forum on Combating Trafficking in Persons in Aviation. OHCHR, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, is currently developing international guidelines on health, criminal and human rights aspects relating to trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs.

63. OHCHR has undertaken efforts to combat racism in and through sport during the past three years by cooperating with a number of Russian and international stakeholders to ensure the application of non-discrimination policies in the preparations for the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup tournament held in 2018. OHCHR is currently cooperating with Russian partners to finalize a "non-discrimination legacy" for the FIFA World Cup tournament that could provide a unique opportunity to showcase good practices among organizers of major sporting events.

64. OHCHR works on the various dimensions related to religious intolerance, including discrimination, xenophobia, migration, freedom of religion or belief, religious profiling and incitement to racial, national or religious hatred. It undertakes activities in support of the calls for action contained in paragraphs 7 to 9 of General Assembly resolution 71/195 on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief. Upon request, OHCHR has supported several countries and specialized bodies in the development of national action plans against racism. OHCHR also manages a database on issues related to racism and discrimination and has developed guidelines and training manuals for judges and law enforcement personnel on the actions recommended in the resolution. A number of activities have taken place in that regard, including in Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Senegal and Tunisia. In relation to the role of the media in countering hate speech and xenophobia, activities have taken place in the Russian Federation and Ukraine and in West Africa. In Rabat, on 6 and 7 December 2017, the Rabat+5 Symposium on the follow-up to the Rabat Plan of Action offered an opportunity for various stakeholders to engage with experts on the elaboration of the Rabat Plan of Action and the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 commitments, and to exchange experiences in the area of combating violence in the name of religion.

X. Conclusions and recommendations

65. **Member States have made progress in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. As outlined in the present report, a variety of measures have been adopted that provide encouragement. However, stronger political will and more concerted action are needed to reverse**

the negative trends of racist and xenophobic attitudes and violence that continue to persist. The promotion of interculturality, dialogue, tolerance and respect for diversity are essential to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

66. Ultimately, progress in the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance will be won only if all relevant stakeholders intensify their efforts and take relevant measures in that regard. Examples of such measures include the adoption of strong legal frameworks in conformity with international standards; the creation or strengthening, as appropriate, of national human rights mechanisms, in line with the Paris Principles, that play protection, promotion and monitoring roles; the combating of impunity for racist acts; the fostering of the roles played by political parties, civil society actors and the private sector in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and, in the case of migrants and refugees, the granting of protection according to international law, including international refugee law and international human rights law, in particular from all forms of discrimination.

67. In that connection, Member States are reminded of the validity of the political declaration adopted by consensus during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on 22 September 2011, which, together with the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, forms a solid basis for action to pursue the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Member States, regional organizations, civil society and other stakeholders are therefore encouraged to fully and effectively implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference.

68. In addition, Member States are encouraged to fully and effectively implement their obligations arising under international law, particularly the non-discrimination clauses in the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Those States that have not yet done so are urged to ratify or accede to the Covenants and the Convention.

69. To enhance access to justice and remedies, Member States that have not yet done so are encouraged to make a declaration under article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on the recognition of the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within its jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation.

70. Member States are encouraged to cooperate with the relevant human rights mechanisms, in particular the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including by extending to them invitations to carry out country visits and implementing the thematic and country-based recommendations of those mechanisms.

71. Member States and other stakeholders are invited to actively participate in the deliberations of the mechanisms established to follow up the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and implement the recommendations emanating therefrom.

72. Member States that have not yet done so are encouraged to develop and implement national action plans to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

73. International and regional organizations are encouraged to intensify collaboration in fighting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

74. In line with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, Member States are encouraged to establish or strengthen, as appropriate, and equip specialized bodies and mechanisms for the implementation of public policies to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and promote racial equality with suitable financial resources, capabilities and capacities to survey, investigate, educate and undertake public awareness-raising activities.

75. Member States are encouraged to take all appropriate measures, in accordance with domestic legislation and international obligations, to prevent, combat and address all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the context of sporting events, and to ensure that racially motivated acts are properly addressed.

76. Host countries of major sporting events are encouraged to seize the opportunity to develop awareness-raising and education campaigns aimed at sensitizing the public on the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

77. Member States receiving migrants, including refugees, should ensure effective protection, respect and fulfilment of their human rights according to international law. Specifically, States should protect migrants from all forms of discrimination, including those who are most excluded and vulnerable to harm, such as migrants in irregular situations. States should embed equality and non-discrimination principles in migration law, policy and enforcement. States' implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration should be geared towards upholding the principle of non-discrimination, and be in line with the commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants.

78. Member States should repeal or amend all laws or measures that may give rise to discrimination against migrants, including direct and indirect discrimination and discrimination based on multiple grounds, and condemn and take effective measures against all acts and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants.

79. In order to review progress with regard to the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, all stakeholders are invited to regularly submit updated inputs, in accordance with requests for information from OHCHR.

80. Finally, with a view to ensuring the fullest implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent, under the responsibility of OHCHR, all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions and individuals in a position to do so are encouraged to contribute generously to the programme.